ENTERTAINMENT / H6

KC Concepcion:
My mom will walk me down the aisle

WORLD / A21

US schoolteacher arrested
in Thailand for murder of JonBenet Ramsey in 1996

ENTERTAINMENT / H5

Pinay housekeeper's lawsuit
vs Brando's estate offers peek into actor's sad, last days

NEWS / A18

Prosecution in Subic
rape trial rests; defense to present case Sept. 11

UST graduates top medical board exams

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION (PRC) announced that 1,491 of 2,696 examinees passed the Physician (Complete and Finals with Prelims) Licensure Exam given by the Board of Medicine in the cities of Manila and Cebu this August.

The examinees who made it to the top 10 were the following (Complete list in www.Inq7.net):

UST/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, August 18, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 251 P18 website: www.inq7.net

JDV: Gloria 'in excelsis' over impeach bid killing

By Christine O. Avendaño

BAKA LUMAGPAS YAN NG LANGIT!

THERE MAY BE THE devil to pay but, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., the killing of the latest impeachment bid against President

JDV/ A6

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

CLOSE CALL: A tearful Patricio Manahan hangs on to his wife Lydia and children while recounting how he was nearly killed by persons unknown to him in Obando, Bulacan.

More international Christian leaders outraged over rash of political killings

By Christian V. Esguerra
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

OUTRAGE OVER THE POLITICAL killings in the Philippines is swelling in the international Christian community.

After the Uniting Church in Australia, more Protestant denominations have expressed alarm over the killings, with the Methodists issuing a statement calling on the US government to pressure President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration into decisive action.

"We call upon the United States government to bring pressure to bear upon authorities in the Philippines to respect civil liberties and human rights and to enforce effective policing and the judicial process," the US-based United Methodist Church said in a statement signed at a conference in North Carolina and addressed to the US and Philippine governments.

In a separate statement, church leaders representing denominations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America expressed "shock and dismay" over reports of the extrajudicial killings.

"Of particular concern are our sister and brother church workers who have been slain by death squads that seem connected to powerful economic, military and political interests in the country," they said.

The statement was signed by 17 church leaders and peace advocates representing the World Alliance of Reformed Church in South Korea, Lutheran World Federation in the United States and Switzerland, United Church of Canada, Uniting Reformed Church in

MORE/ A8

Oil spill peril spreads

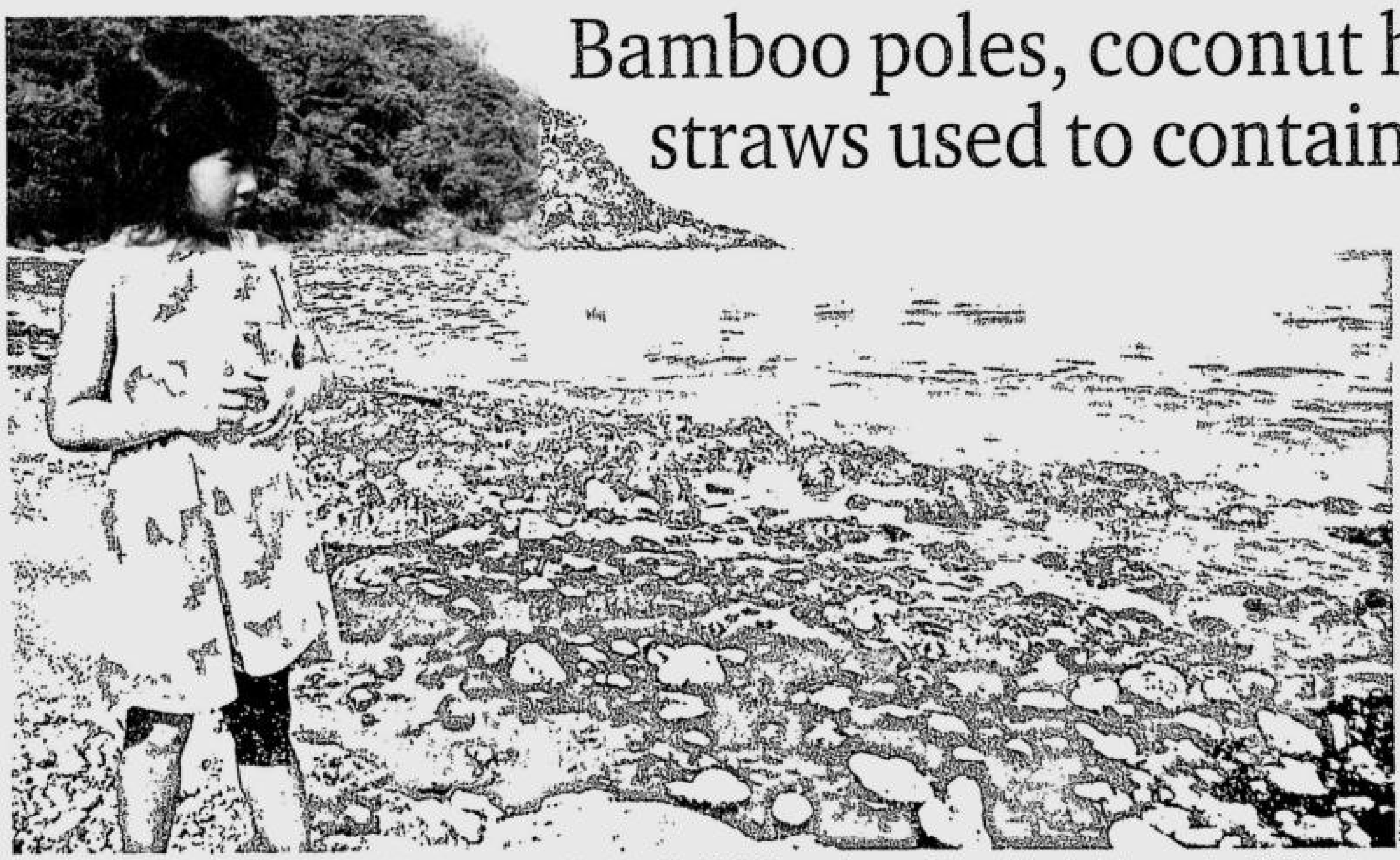
RP warned only 5% of coral reefs in top form

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES of the Philippines are considered the richest in the world, but they are being degraded considerably, resulting in billions of pesos in economic losses every year, according to a report of the World Bank.

Only 4-5 percent of coral reefs in the country are still in excellent condition while more than 70 percent of its mangrove forests have been converted to aqua farms, logged or reclaimed for other uses, the World Bank said in Philippine Environment Monitor (PEM) 2005 on Coastal and Ma-

RP WARNED/ A10



AFP

THE WORST OIL SPILL IN RP HISTORY: The future appears bleak for this girl who lives on the coast of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, where 520,000 gallons of industrial fuel aboard a tanker that sank last week is seeping out its contents to pollute a major marine reserve and 50 hectares of seaweed plantations.

Bamboo poles, coconut husks, rice straws used to contain pollution

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas
and Christine A. Gaylican
in Manila

WITH NO OFFERS OF help from other countries, residents of Guimaras Island affected by the country's worst oil spill are using indigenous materials like bamboo poles with floaters, *cogon*, coconut husks and rice straw to keep the oil from spreading.

Environment Regional Director Julian Amador said residents and some volunteers had started removing the oil from their backyards without sophisticated equipment.

But the massive oil spill could get much worse without urgent help to lift a stricken tanker, still loaded with fuel, from the ocean floor. The spill is only a fraction of the oil on the doomed Solar I which has seeped out of the ship's hold, officials said.

The ship is on the sea bed some 3,000 feet (900 meters) deep. Philippine salvage teams only have the capability to dive to around 120 feet.

OIL SPILL/ A10

Junking may spark civil disobedience—Cardinal Vidal

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Michael Lim Ubac
in Manila
Jhunnex Napallacan
and Ma. Diosa Labiste
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU ARCHBISHOP RICARDO Cardinal Vidal and Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez yesterday warned the scrapping of the latest impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo could spark a civil disobedience campaign and other extra-constitutional measures to oust her.

"If the issue isn't resolved in a calm manner, a parliament of the street is possible and we can't stop that," Iñiguez told reporters.

He said some quarters, irked by the House committee on justice decision on Wednesday, might resort to "extra-legal" means. "We do not want that but we can't stop other elements."

At a breakfast meeting with several priests, Cardinal Vidal talked about his worries on the political implications of the killing of the complaint, said Msgr. Achilles Dakay.

"Cardinal Vidal said he was worried ... he said he worries about civil disobedience," said Dakay, the archdiocese's media liaison officer. Vidal did not elaborate, Dakay said.

Citizens groups have raised the possibility of mounting a campaign for nonpayment of taxes, boycott of classes and work stoppages and slowdowns if Congress unduly blocks the second impeachment attempt against Ms Arroyo.

But Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco said civil disobedience did not have popular support.

Last year, Ms Arroyo's majority coalition squelched an attempt to unseat her over charges she stole the 2004 pres-

JUNKING/ A6

2 men claim cheating for GMA in '04 election

By Norman Bordadora

TWO MEN HAVE CLAIMED INvolvement in a purported operation to alter the results of the May 2004 presidential poll, and implicated then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and then PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane in the supposed switching of election returns (ERs) at the House of Representatives and the manufacture of the documents.

Arsenio Rasalan and Clinton Colcol were to have been presented at a news conference yesterday afternoon in a Quezon City church. But the press conference was canceled and copies of their affidavits and video-recorded statements were instead distributed to reporters.

Rasalan said in his video that he was 67 and "a direct and active participant" in the purported operation.

He said he knew "for a fact" that the manufactured ERs replaced the genuine ERs in the ballot boxes at the House, and that he oversaw the manufacture of the documents after being contracted by election lawyer Roque Bello, who was in turn contracted by Ebdane, now the public works secretary.

Rasalan said the manufacture of the ERs and the subsequent switch were made imperative after opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. and vice presi-

2 MEN/ A7

Kids find space in shadow of volcano

By Ephraim Aguilar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—CHILDREN staying in congested centers for Mount Mayon evacuees have found their own world that could help cushion the effects of a disrupted normal life.

At the San Roque Elementary School in Barangay Mabinit here, the young evacuees now have access to play and art materials in a "space" where they could trade their fears for simple joys.

The "Child-Friendly Space (CFS)," a tent where "normal aspects" of a child's life are quickly reestablished to provide a secure and healthy environment for children caught in

KIDS FIND/ A8

NINO ORBETA/ INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

A **"CHILD FRIENDLY SPACE"** in an evacuation center put up by World Vision assures children caught in a disaster situation—like Mayon volcano's elevated alert level—of access to play and toys.

3 Cha-cha steps open to Gloria

By TJ Burgonio

IF THE SUPREME COURT VOTES down the administration-backed people's initiative and the House-initiated constituent assembly, President Macapagal-Arroyo still has an ace up her sleeve to tinker with the Constitution—a constitutional convention.

In a constitutional convention, the delegates are elected by the people to draft amendments.

The President, who continues to be dogged by the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, could even propose the election of Con-Con delegates in the 2007 balloting to draft the

3 CHA-CHA/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Centra Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with skies isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/17/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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New nurses can now take oath

By Armand N. Nocum, Leila Salaverria and Vincent Cabreza, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

IN A MOVE THAT CRITICS SUSPECT WAS DESIGNED to preempt a Court of Appeals petition to stop it, the Professional Regulation Commission yesterday announced that successful examinees of the recent nursing licensure examinations can go to any PRC office in their areas and take their oath as licensed nurses.

Amid the scandal caused by a reported leak in the June 11 and 12 nursing exams, the PRC decided to admit into the profession the 17,000 who supposedly passed the examinations and scheduled the oath-taking for Aug. 22.

On Wednesday, the PRC postponed the Aug. 22 oath-taking because it couldn't find a venue but yesterday PRC chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero solved the problem by designating the PRC offices nationwide as the venue.

In Baguio, where reports of the leak of test questions first surfaced, Senando Esteban, PRC Cordillera director, said he was told by Rosero to schedule the oath-taking today.

About 92 applicants in Baguio claimed to have observed examinees circulating photocopies of handwritten questions that later appeared in the actual exams.

Mary Grace Lacanaria, one of the nursing school deans who exposed the cheating in the licensure exam in Baguio, said Rosero's order appeared to have been issued in haste to preempt a petition for a restraining order against the Aug. 22 oath-taking.

A group of nurses, nursing teachers and students yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to stop the Aug. 22 oath-taking of new nurses who supposedly passed the tainted June 11 and 12 licensure examinations.

Nurses who are admitted to the profession based on an "engineered computation" of their grades could do irreversible harm, according to the petitioners.

They said the PRC and Board of Nursing had taken the task of merely "recomputing" the scores after reports of a leak in the exam questions came out and then decided to go ahead and admit the supposedly successful examinees into the profession.

"The interest of public health and safety demands that only nurses who have been properly screened for their competencies are allowed to perform the tasks assigned to them," said petitioners Rene M. Tadle, Earl Francis R. Sumile and Michael Angelo S. Brant, heads of the UST College of Nursing Faculty Association, the League of Concerned Nurses and the Binuklod na Samahan ng Mga Student Nurses.

The petitioners focused their arguments on the alleged arbitrary changing of rules on the exam results following reports of the alleged leak of test questions.

Instead of ordering the more than 17,000 examinees to re-take the exam, the petitioners said the PRC and BON simply "recomputed" the scores after eliminating the subjects of "medical/surgical nursing" and "neuro-psychiatric nursing," the parts of the exam that had been tainted by the alleged leak.

Indispensable discipline

The petitioners warned that nurses have to have a good grasp of medical and surgical nursing and neuro-psychiatric nursing, the latter field being "an indispensable discipline for all those who desire to enter the profession."

They said the PRC and BON had merely "copied" a Supreme Court decision to annul the results in one topic, mercantile law, after a similar leakage scandal in the bar examinations a few years ago.

But the petitioners said the situation of lawyers are different from that of nurses, noting that in the case of the former errors can be reviewed and corrected.

"[The nurse] is a decision-maker when it comes to deciding how she would execute a physician's order concerning a patient. She applies her competence or lack of competence directly on the ailing patient before her. No adverse party watches her every move. Her decision is unappealable and, at times, could be fatal," the petition said.

Alleged Rizal Day bombs supplier cleared

By Jhunnex Napallacan
INQUIRER Visayas

CEBU CITY—THE REGIONAL TRIAL Court here today acquitted the Cebu businessman accused of supplying the explosives that were used in the Dec. 30, 2000, Rizal Day bombing of Metro Manila's Light Rail Transit system and several buses, in which a total of 22 people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

Judge Ireneo Lee Gako Jr. cleared Antonio Reyes, 56, of Barangay Tangke, Talisay City, of illegal possession and sale of explosives charges after the prosecution failed to present a single explosive device as evidence during the three-year trial.

Reyes was accused of selling one ton of explosives to the bombers.

He was arrested in August 2002 by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of Central Visayas in Clarin, Bohol, after Cusain Ramos, alias Abu Ali, of Lapu-Lapu City, admitted to police he had ordered one ton of explosives from Reyes.

Ramos said he bought the explosives in behalf of Fathur Roman al-Ghozi, an Indonesian member of the regional terrorist organization, Jemaah Islamiyah, who was linked to the Rizal Day bombings.

Al-Ghozi was eventually killed by the military after he escaped from Camp Crame in Quezon City where he had been detained.

During Reyes' trial, not a single explosive device was presented in court by the prosecution.

"The non-presentation of the subject matter, as part of the corpus delicti, created a doubt in the mind of the court whether the explosives imputed to the accused really existed," Gako said.

"In criminal cases, the prosecution is required to establish the accused's guilt beyond reasonable doubt, and in the absence of such degree of proof the accused is entitled to an acquittal," he said.

High court lets Imee off the book in $4-M suit

By Armand N. Nocum

MARCOS

THE FAILURE OF THE PASIG REGIONAL trial court to effectively serve a summons on Rep. Ma. Imelda "Imee" Marcos in a civil case involving the murder of a Mapua Institute of Technology engineering student in 1977 relieved Marcos of the burden of having to pay the victim's heirs $4.4 million in damages.

Last Tuesday, the Supreme Court voided the civil proceedings before the Pasig RTC Branch 163 where the family of Archimedes Trajano, the murdered Mapua engineering student, was seeking the enforcement of a US court ruling ordering Marcos to compensate the victim' for the murder's heirs.

In its decision penned by Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., the Supreme Court nullified the March 17, 1997 decision of the Court of Appeals which upheld the Oct. 11, 1994 order of the Pasig court junking the motion to dismiss filed by Marcos due to an invalid "substituted service" of the summons.

Trajano, 21, an engineering student at the Mapua in 1977 , was a participant at a forum in the school where he asked Marcos a question that angered her. His body was found on a Manila street on Sept. 2, 1977. He was allegedly abducted by Marcos' bodyguards and brutally tortured and beaten for over 12 to 36 hours before he died.

Liable for murder

In 1992, Hawaii court Judge Manuel Real found Marcos liable for Trajano's murder and ordered her to pay $4.4 million to Trajano's heirs.

Records showed that the Pasig RTC issued a summons on July 6, 1993 addressed to Marcos' Alexandra Condominium unit in Pasig in connection with the civil case filed by the heirs of Trajano seeking to collect the $4.4 million that the Hawaii court had awarded them.

On July 15, 1993, the summons and a copy of the complaint were allegedly served on Macky de la Cruz, an alleged caretaker of the Marcos condominium.

When Marcos failed to heed the summons, the trial court declared her in default through an order dated Oct. 13, 1993.

But in its ruling, the SC said the Pasig court lacked the jurisdiction to conduct proceedings on the case considering that its sheriff failed to comply with the requirements of Rule 14 Section 8 on "substituted service."

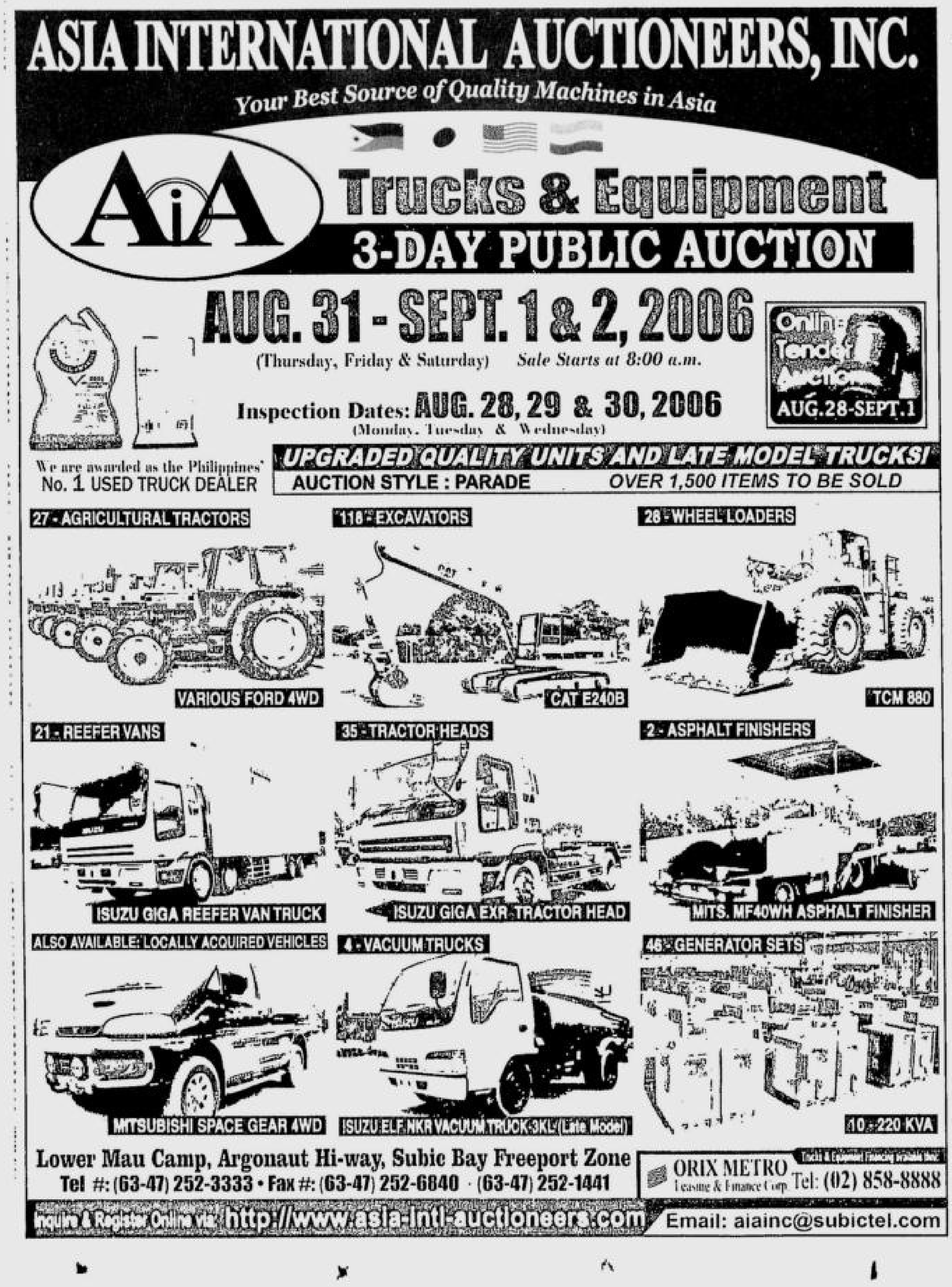
Why summons failed

The provision says that "if the defendants cannot be served within a reasonable time as provided in the preceding section, service may be effected by (a) leaving copies of the summons at the defendant's residence with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein, or (b) by leaving the copies at defendant's office or regular place of business with some competent person in charge thereof."

Based on a scrutiny of the return of summons, the SC said the sheriff failed to clearly explain why its efforts to serve the summons to Marcos failed. It said the sheriff failed to show that extraordinary efforts had been undertaken to locate Marcos.

In the case of Marcos, whose residence had not been clearly ascertained, "it would have been better for personal service to have been pursued persistently," the SC said.

In her motion to dismiss before the Pasig court, Marcos claimed that she was not a resident of the Alexandra condominium where the summons was served. She presented her Philippine passport and a "disembarkation/embarkation" card issued by the Immigration Service of Singapore to show that she was a resident of Singapore at the time.



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JINGGOY'S ARREST

DOJ calls off warrant; Senate calls it a threat

By Armand N. Nocum and Juliet Labog-Javellana

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ yesterday ordered a Pasay City prosecutor to suspend proceedings in the libel case filed by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

In a memorandum to Pasay City Prosecutor Elmer Mitra, Gonzalez directed the latter to "move for the suspension of proceedings in the said case before the court" because Estrada "enjoys parliamentary immunity from arrest for offenses punishable by not more than six years imprisonment."

Estrada narrowly escaped arrest Wednesday after Pasay City Judge Wilhelmina Jorge-Wagani issued a warrant of arrest for him in connection with the P10-million libel suit filed by the President's husband.

The case stemmed from Estrada's linking of Arroyo to suspected smugglers during a recent Senate hearing on the budget of the Bureau of Customs.

Veiled threat

Reacting to the attempt to arrest Estrada, senators said it was a "veiled threat" to them not to cross swords with Malacañang or any of its allies.

Senate President Manuel Villar said this was how the senators felt after an 8-member Pasay police team came to the Senate to serve the warrant on Estrada.

Personally, he was disturbed by the incident, Villar said.

"For me, the action was a warning because we know the Senate has differences with Malacañang. We know our invitations (to hearings) are being ignored. Those whom we invite do not show up at our investigations, and now the policemen come to us. This really bothers me," Villar said.

He said the Senate passed a resolution expressing the senators' anger over the incident.

Villar also belied the Pasay police's denial that they had told him they wanted to serve the warrant because Malacañang might demand an explanation from them if they failed to do so.

Villar said he had even pointed out to the police team leader that the latter had made a mistake by mentioning Malacañang's role in the arrest.

He said the team leader then asked him to give him something to show Malacañang that the police had really gone to the Senate to serve the warrant on Estrada.

Immunity from arrest

He said he showed them the Constitution, which provides for immunity from arrest for members of Congress for crimes punishable by less than six years in prison and while Congress is in session.

He said the police team leader asked for a photocopy of the provision to show Malacañang.

But in an interview yesterday, Gonzalez said Malacañang had nothing to do with serving the warrant on Estrada and the police were just doing their job.

"All the lawyers in Malacañang know that a congressman or a senator cannot be arrested while Congress is in session," Gonzalez said.

He said the judge who issued the warrant was just also doing her job, after determining there was probable cause against Estrada.

"The judge issued the warrant as a matter of course," he said.

Only the timely intervention of Villar and Gen. Jose Balajadia (ret.), the Senate sergeant-at-arms who barred the Pasay City policemen from entering the Senate, stopped Estrada from being arrested.

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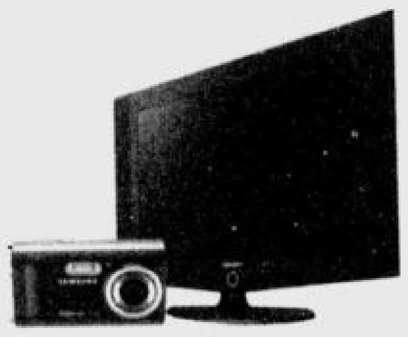

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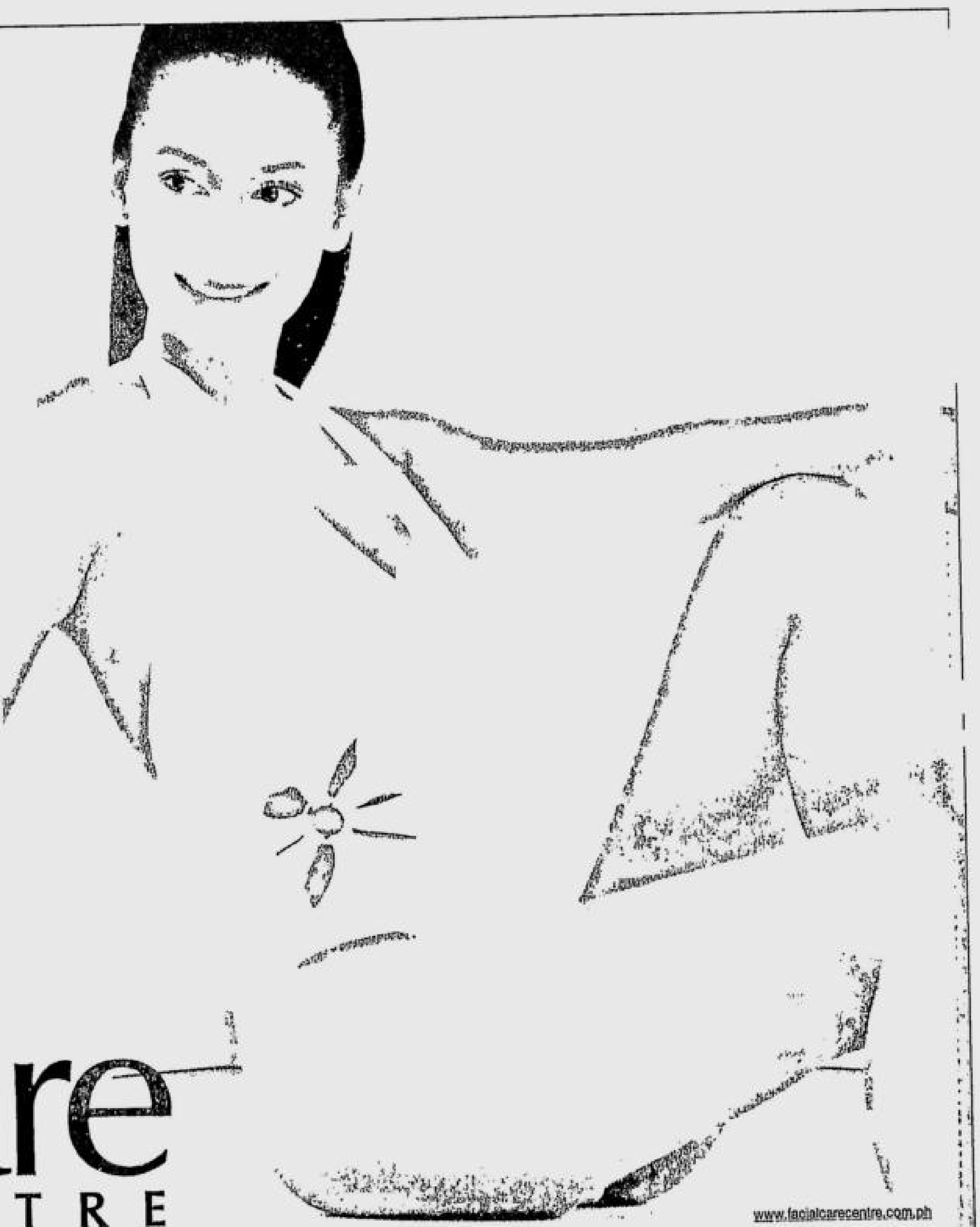

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Cabral reports to UN body RP gains in women's rights

SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY Esperanza I. Cabral cited the gains of the Philippines in promoting women's rights on Wednesday in a report before the 36th session of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee, which started Aug. 15 at the UN headquarters in New York.

Cabral headed the Philippine delegation, which presented the government's report on the implementation of the CEDAW, an international treaty which binds member-countries to carry out accepted principles and measures to achieve equal rights for women worldwide.

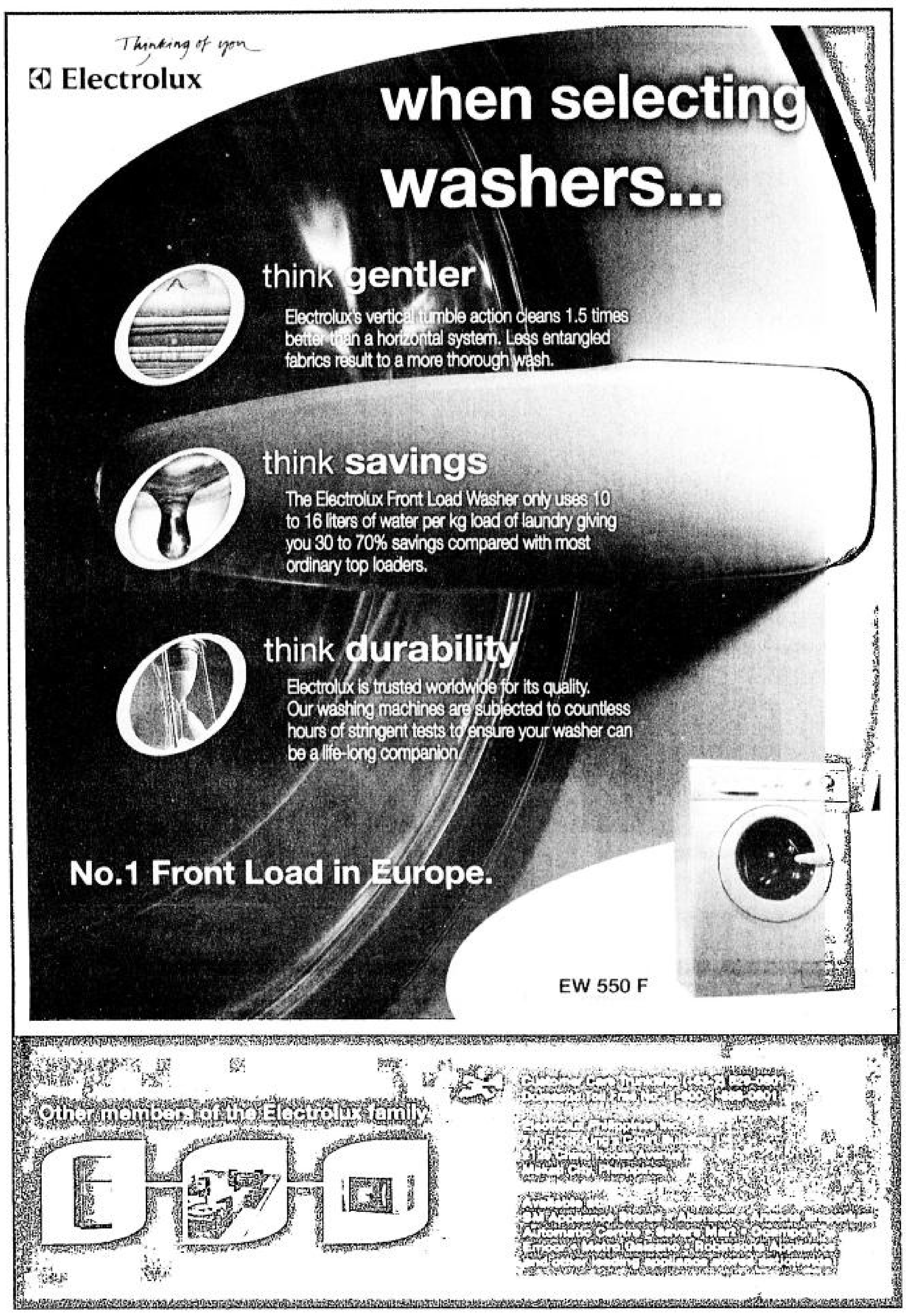
Also in the delegation were Myrna Yao, chair of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), and deputy permanent representative of the Philippine Mission to the UN Bayani Mercado, who served as alternate head of the delegation.

Ratified by the Philippine government in 1981, the CEDAW provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men by ensuring the promotion of women's rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural fields.

Among the notable achievements of the Philippines from 1996 to 2004 cited by Cabral were the passage of the several laws:

1. Anti-Sexual Harassment Law addressing sexual harassment in the workplace and in schools and training environments;
2. Anti-Rape Law of 1997 redefining rape from being a crime against chastity to a crime against person, and penalizing marital rape;
3. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 which sets policies, institutional mechanisms, and sanctions and penalties against traffickers to eliminate trafficking in persons and protect and support victims of trafficking;
4. Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004 protecting women and their children from physical, psychological and other forms of abuse.

The first draft of the CEDAW that made discrimination against women a human rights issue came from the Philippines through the efforts of former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani. To date, four Filipino women have served in the CEDAW committee. They were: Justice Irene Cortes, Teresita Quintos-Deles, Aurora Javate-de Dios, and Ambassador Rosario Manalo, who is the current chairperson of the CEDAW Committee.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HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

IPU raises concerns over 6 leftist solons

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF THE International Parliamentary Union has expressed fears that leftist congressmen and the party-list groups the latter represent are being "criminalized" and charged with rebellion "on the basis of considerations that are alien to law."

In a confidential resolution adopted by the committee during its 114th session in Geneva from July 11 to 14, the committee noted the public statements from President Macapagal-Arroyo and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that allegedly showed that they have prejudged the guilt of the so-called Batasan 5 and Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran.

It said it was concerned that the Department of Justice had brought a new case against the six party-list representatives that was based on essentially the same elements as the one that was dismissed on March 14, 2006.

The committee cited what it called the continuous efforts of state prosecutors to bring amended indictments based on the same broad allegations and Beltran's arrest in the absence of "legally valid arguments and the inhibition of judges from the government's case against parliamentarians."

It said the President and Gonzalez had "clearly prejudged" the case against the accused party-list representatives "in disrespect of the fundamental principle of presumption of innocence."

Noting that freedom of expression and assembly are cornerstones of democracy, the committee noted that these acts of the Philippine government constituted "a grave attack on parliament itself and should therefore be of concern to the parliamentary authorities."

The Batasan 5 refers to the party-list representatives—Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Liza Maza—who sought refuge in the House Representatives to avoid arrest on charges that they participated in a failed leftist-rightist conspiracy to overthrow the government last February.

The five party-list representatives and Beltran, who was similarly charged, brought a complaint against the government before the IPU.

The IPU committee on human rights, which deliberated on the allegations, counts as members representatives from the legislatures of Mexico, Algeria, Belgium, Iran and Chile.

The confidential resolution, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, will be sent Philippine authorities and legislative leaders.

The Geneva-based IPU is composed of members of legislatures of sovereign states. It was founded in 1889 and "is the focal point for world-wide dialogue and works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy."

Norman Bordadora

Violinist Carmencita Lozada dies

FILIPINO VIOLINIST CARMENCITA LOZADA died of lung cancer at the Lung Center of the Philippines on Aug. 15. Her remains were cremated yesterday.

Lozada reaped awards both here and abroad, among them the top prize of the Paganini international competition in Genoa, Italy, which she won in 1957 at the age of 17.

"The judges were amazed," her brother Manolo Lozada said. She won the same award two years later.

Lozada subsequently held concerts all over Europe, to great acclaim.

Last year she launched 15 CDs of her work and completed five more before her death.

A scholar of the Music Promotion Foundation, Lozada was educated at the Luis Valencia Academy, the Philippine Women's University College of Music and the Vienna Academy of the Arts.

She was based in Siegen, Germany, for many years but returned to the Philippines occasionally.

She is survived by her brother Manolo and sister Teresita, who is based in New York. A memorial service is scheduled next week.

Amadis Ma. Guerrero, contributor

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 18, 2006
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Jane Frances de Chantal

1st Reading: Ezk 16:1-15, 60, 63 (or Ezk 16:59-63)
Gospel: Matthew 19:3-12

Some Pharisees approached Jesus. They wanted to test him and asked, "Is a man allowed to divorce his wife for any reason he wants?"

Jesus replied, "Have you not read that in the beginning the Creator made them male and female, and he said: Man has now to leave father and mother, and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one body? So they are no longer two but one body; let no one separate what God has joined."

They asked him, "Then, why did Moses command us to write a bill of dismissal in order to divorce?" Jesus replied, "Moses knew your stubborn heart, so he allowed you to divorce your wives, but it was not so in the beginning. Therefore I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, unless it be for concubinage, and marries another, commits adultery."

The disciples said, "If that is the condition of a married man, it is better not to marry." Jesus said to them, "Not everybody can accept what you have just said, but only those who have received this gift. Some are born incapable of marriage. Some have been made that way by others. But there are some who have given up the possibility of marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who can accept it, accept it."

Commentary

Jerusalem is not born of God. She is a cast-off, an orphan, and yet God has spread the corner of his cloak over the people and entered into covenant with them, giving them everything as lovers do. But Jerusalem cares nothing for God, only for itself, but God will once again remember them and love them and pardon them. We hear this message practically every day for months. Do we realize it's about us, as a people, Church, nation? Jesus deals with it in the covenant of marriage and that both men and women are called to be faithful, imaging God's own faithfulness. No matter who we are or our status, we belong first to God alone.

Body of Pinoy truck driver killed in Iraq blast arrives

By Jerome Aning

THE REMAINS OF A FILIPINO TRUCK DRIVER killed in Iraq arrived in Manila yesterday afternoon.

The Department of Foreign Affairs identified the fatality as Carlito Mainit, 52, of Malabon City who was employed by PWC Logistics in Kuwait.

Mainit's remains were met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by family members and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration officials.

Foreign Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Esteban Conejos, citing a report by the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait, said Mainit was driving one of 20 trucks that entered southern Iraq from Kuwait on July 30 escorted by US military personnel.

Mainit's truck, his colleagues recounted to embassy officials, struck an improvised explosive device buried in the roadside. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but he succumbed to shrapnel wounds.

According to the embassy report, 10 of the 20 trucks in the convoy were driven by Filipinos. All the drivers returned to Kuwait after the incident.

The Philippine government in July 2004 banned the deployment of overseas Filipino workers to Iraq following the abduction by Iraqi militants of truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, who was subsequently released.

The government, however, has been having a hard time enforcing the ban as OFWs continue to sneak into Iraq from neighboring countries like Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Graft raps filed vs PLM president, board of regents

A FORMER DEAN OF THE PAMANTASAN NG Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) has filed graft charges against the university president and members of its board of regents (BOR) in connection with the relief of college deans and other faculty members and the unauthorized appointment of their replacements.

Dr. Esther D. Jimenez, former PLM dean of the College of Tourism, Hotel and Travel Industry, accused PLM president Dr. Benjamin G. Tayabas and the six regents before the Ombudsman last month of usurpation of authority, graft and corruption, breach of ethical standards for government officials, and for violating academic freedom.

Jimenez said in her affidavit-complaint that Tayabas demanded the courtesy resignation of some deans and appointed "favored" personnel in their place. The new appointees have since assumed the positions given them.

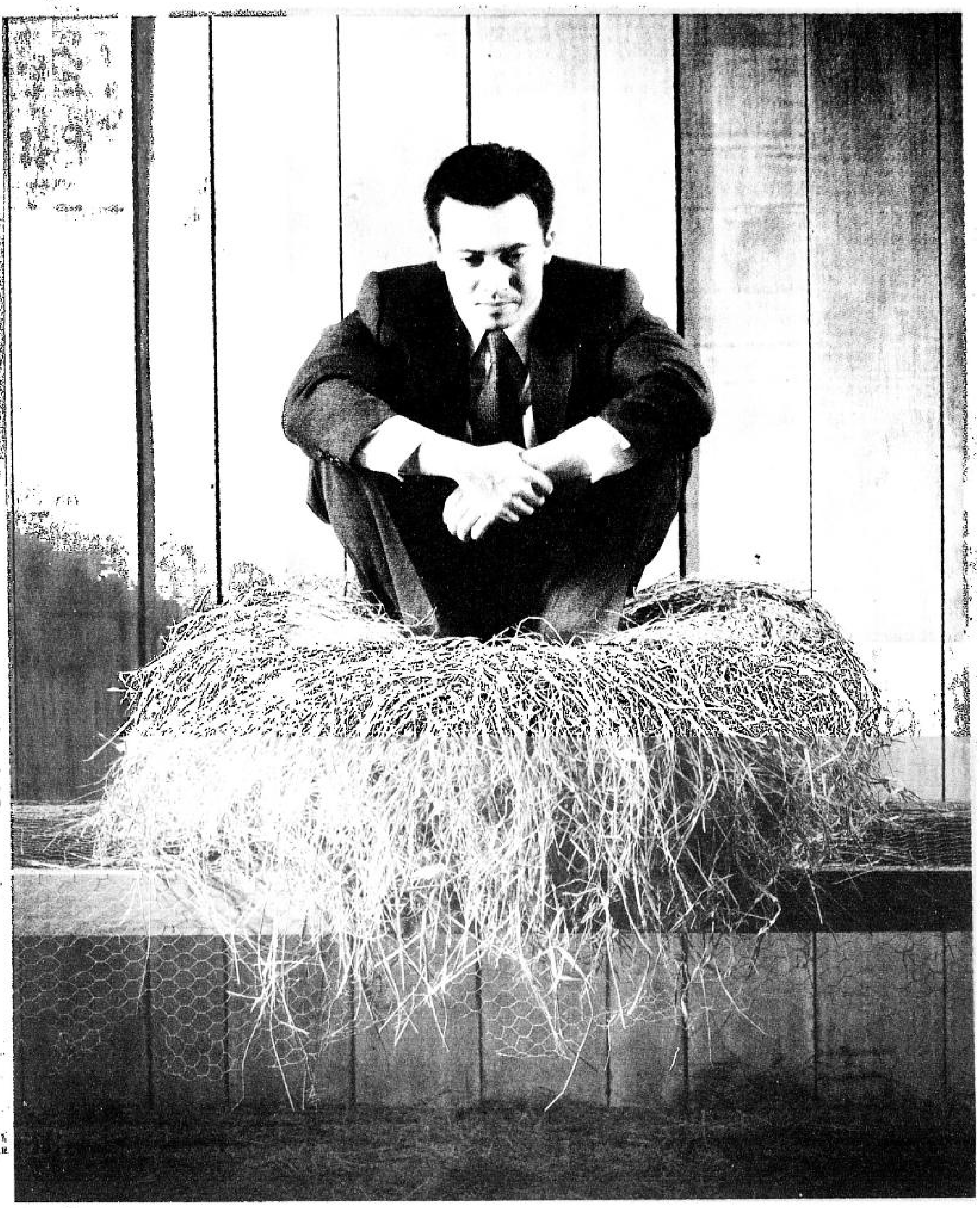
The university charter provides for deans to be elected by the Board of Regents and only on nomination by the university president.

PLM, whose main campus is in Intramuros, is considered a government university because it is owned and operated by the city government of Manila.

The six regents were included in the complaint for allegedly failing to assert their mandate over a "tyrant gone berserk" although one of them, former acting PLM president Jose Roy III, disowned the actions of Tayabas and even tried to stop him, to no avail.

She said: "Dr. Tayabas stepped beyond the bounds of his function by illegally and capriciously appointing personnel to key management positions. And, in the process, he has oppressed numerous diligent, competent and proficient public officials whom he had either removed from office or bypassed by his appointments. He had clearly and knowingly violated the University Charter and other laws of the land."

The six members of the board of regents are: former Justice Justo P. Torres, Jr., Alfredo G. Gabot, Aguinaldo L. Miravalles, Ma. Luisa S. Quiñones, and lawyers Raul I. Goco and Roy.



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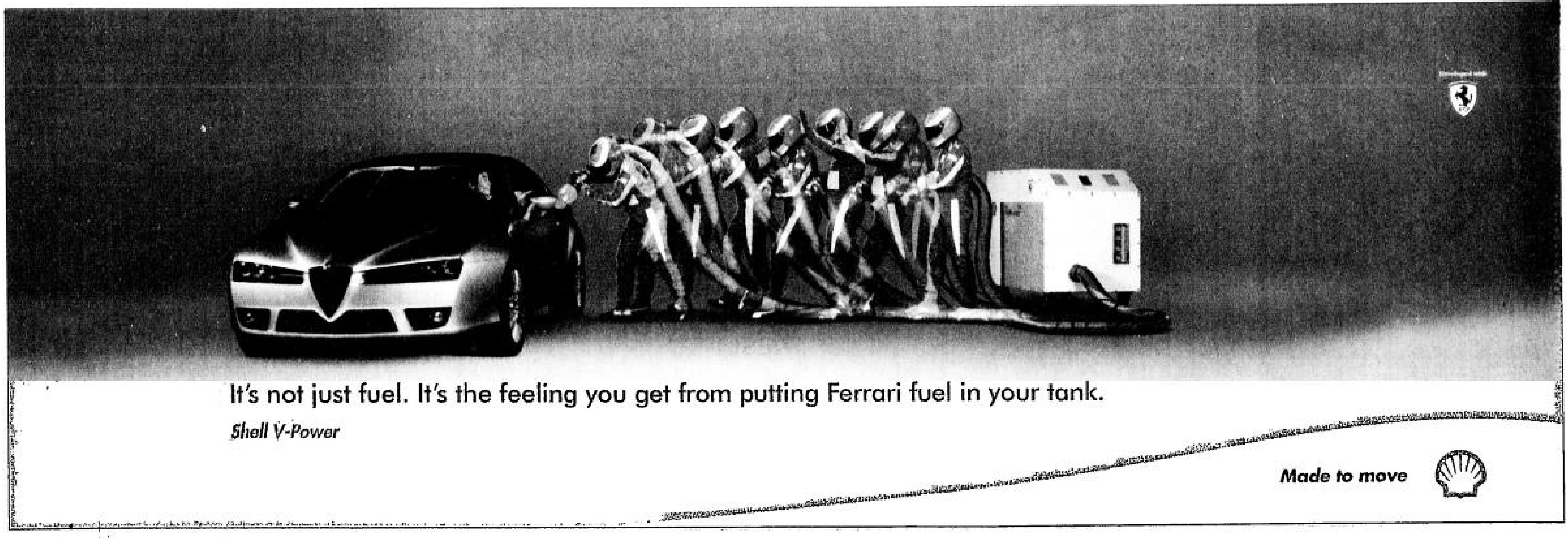

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Made to move

Junking may spark civil disobedience–Cardinal Vidal

From page A1

idential election. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing.

Voting 56-24, the House committee on justice on Tuesday threw out the latest impeachment complaint, saying it lacked substance and was not sufficient to bring Ms Arroyo to trial in the Senate.

Plenary vote next week

A House plenary session next week is expected to ratify the committee's decision. At least 77 votes, or a third of the House membership of 232, are needed to kill the impeachment complaint.

The charges against Ms Arroyo include culpable violation of the Constitution, graft and corruption and grave abuse of power in connection with allegations she manipulated the 2004 election, received illegal gambling payoffs and ordered the systematic political killings.

Iñiguez, who signed an impeachment complaint in June, said the proceedings in Congress would have served as a "smooth way" to resolve the issue of legitimacy against Ms Arroyo. He said the impeachment complaint was junked to suppress the truth.

SAME THING LAST YEAR: The goings-on inside the House sounded familiar; outside, the scene of candles burning into the night was reminiscent of vigils past as the impeachment case against President Arroyo was killed the second time around on Wednesday. RYAN LIM

"I think they concentrated more on the technicalities," Iñiguez said, referring to the administration congressmen whose numbers easily overwhelmed the minority in the justice committee. "It seemed that they had prejudged the case."

Former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, who led a mass resignation of Cabinet officials last year to press demands that Ms Arroyo step aside, said opposition forces would now have to take to the streets to continue the fight to unseat the President.

Country on edge

Soliman's Black and White Movement filed the complaint that the committee considered. Seven other petitions were thrown out for having been filed within the one-year ban on initiating another impeachment complaint against the President.

Soliman said the country was on edge and could turn into a "banana republic." Impeachment was "the only platform that we have and yet the way they treated it was without respect," she said, tears streaming down her face.

Behind her were members of the Akbayan party-list group and citizen-complainants who lit candles and sang "Bayan Ko."

Speaker Jose de Venecia, who stood nearby, told television reporters: "The majority bloc won the vote and we did not lose the battle for public opinion. The nation saw on television that we gave the opposition every opportunity and adequate time to argue and debate based on the rules of the House."

Bind the nation's wounds

De Venecia said the opposition lawmakers had only themselves to blame for not getting the votes to support their cause. He urged the opposition to "begin to bind the nation's wounds by gracefully accepting defeat."

"We mourn the death of truth. I was unable to sleep last night because I was hoping that there will be a change of heart. I was so sad," said Bishop Gaspar Bañez of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente.

Bañez led 33 civil society leaders in Cebu who signed another impeachment complaint against the President in June. "When we signed it, we tried to be optimistic. But now we have nowhere else to go but take to the streets," Bañez said.

JDV: Gloria 'in excelsis' over impeach bid killing

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday night had sent her soaring "to high heavens."

Indeed, a day after the House committee on justice dismissed for insufficiency in substance the impeachment complaint that was backed by seven boxes of evidence, the President was smiling and shaking hands with people at the launch of the "One Town, One Product-Philippines" Luzon Trade Fair at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

And in a rare instance, Ms Arroyo bantered with Palace reporters, albeit not to crow about her latest political victory.

1,000 towns

"I am glad, I am glad that I have launched the one-town, one-product (trade fair)," she told the media as she thanked Trade Secretary Peter Favila for organizing the fair that showcased the native products of 1,000 towns.

"In other words, they already have the majority of the towns and I am very glad they are also using, doing their native products in their town, not inventing a whole new product for the town," Ms Arroyo beamed.

De Venecia, who accompanied the President to the trade fair, told reporters that she called him up after the House committee voted against the impeachment complaint.

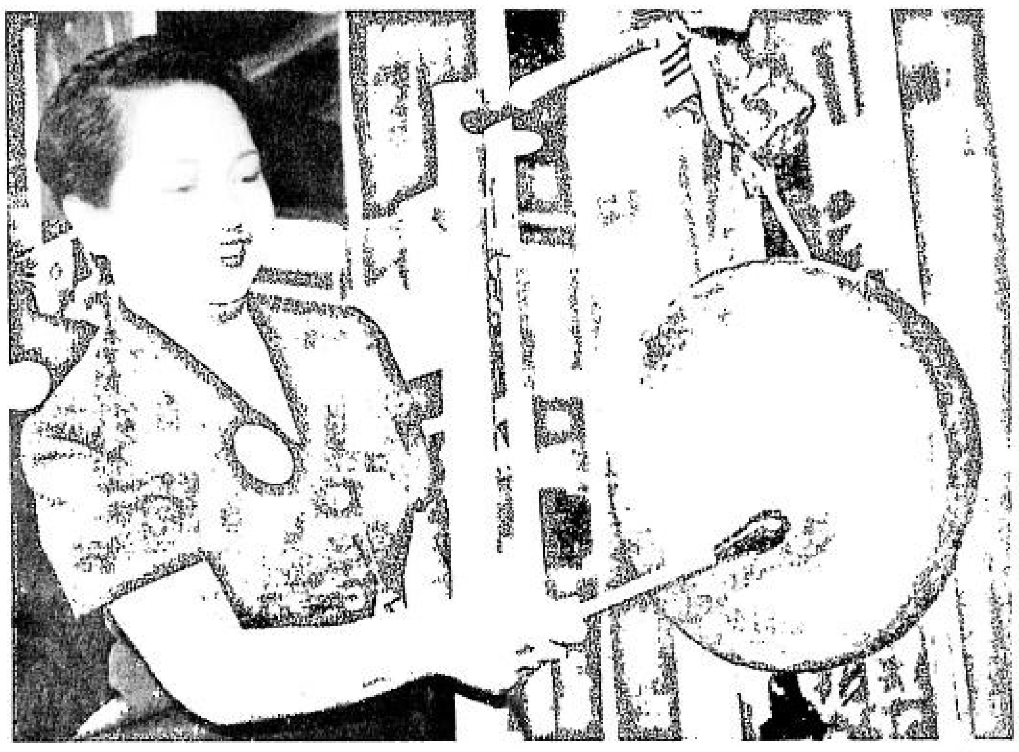
"She was in high heavens," Ms Arroyo's point man in the House said.

De Venecia said the President thanked him, Representatives Simeon Datumanong, Raul del Mar, Edcel Lagman, Luis Villafuerte and the other administration lawmakers for a job well done.

"I said, 'Ma'am, you should also thank the opposition'," the Speaker said, adding that he resorted to "subtle diplomacy" in urging both administration and opposition lawmakers to return to the session hall and finish the committee vote. Both sides walked out at the height of the tumultuous hearing.

Final vote

According to De Venecia, the administration-dominated House will bury the impeachment complaint on Tuesday next week when it goes for a final vote in a plenary session.



"ONE TOWN, ONE PRODUCT TRADE FAIR:" President Arroyo hits the gong to signal the opening of the fair at the Megamall on Thursday. REUTERS

He pointed out that some members of last year's proimpeachment group, including Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, Cebu Rep. Clavell Martinez and Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr., would be voting this time with the pro-Arroyo bloc.

Asked to comment on reports that more political favors would be granted to those who voted against impeachment, De Venecia said: "We don't need to because the impeachment complaint has been dead on arrival ... Even the opposition said when they filed it, *suntok sa buwan ito* (It was a long shot)."

The Speaker said the Arroyo administration would soon launch "a full-scale reconciliation effort" with all its political foes.

"No more of these destructive politics, negative politics, poisonous politics, adversarial politics ... What we need is cooperative politics," he said.

Businessman Sergio Ortiz-Luis, who was with the President at the trade fair, said businessmen had taken a "very lackadaisical" attitude toward impeachment and they were "happy" about the outcome of the vote.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was urging the nation to "finally leave this issue behind" and close ranks with her.

"Let us just move on with life and our work," Bunye said in a statement. "To be fixated on the events of the past will guarantee us a future of disruption, of interrupted growth and overlooked opportunities."

The impeachment complaint accused Ms Arroyo of 22 charges, including stealing the 2004 presidential election, receiving illegal gambling payoffs, instigating human rights abuses and political killings, and violating the Constitution.

3 Cha-cha steps open to Gloria

From page A1

constitutional amendments before her term ends in 2010, One Voice convenor Christian Monsod said.

One Voice is a nonpartisan, multisectoral movement that is speaking out in forums against the "legally flawed" people's initiative and "suspicious" constituent assembly.

"Con-Con is a better option only if the other two fail. It's the only option if the other two fail," Monsod told INQUIRER editors and staffers Wednesday night, referring to the administration's dual-track move to amend the Charter, which a Senate leader said was very much alive.

"If the other two are turned down by the Supreme Court, she may propose electing the delegates in 2007 as part of the elections."

Sigaw ng Bayan, a multisectoral group of civic and nongovernment organizations, has been at the forefront of pushing for a people's initiative to amend the Charter despite warnings by legal experts that this was legally and constitutionally infirm.

In power beyond 2010

The Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that the Referendum and Initiative Act was inadequate to cover such an exercise and enjoined the Commission on Elections from entertaining any petition for amendment filed through a people's initiative.

Ms Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives have been busy gathering signatures in support of a resolution to amend the Constitution by a three-fourths vote of members of Congress, voting jointly in a constituent assembly, a move strongly opposed by the senators.

One Voice has maintained that it is likely the high tribunal will strike down the people's initiative and the proposed constituent assembly, if their legality is raised before it.

Monsod, former Comelec chair, said Ms Arroyo's agenda in pushing vigorously for a shift to a parliamentary system with a unicameral legislature remained unclear, but theorized that part of it was to remain in power after 2010.

"What is her real agenda? And the quick answer is that she just wants to survive, and maybe leave a legacy in 2010," he said.

Benefit of the doubt

"And the people will ask, 'Is she really sincere about constitutional change in 2010?' One has to say, maybe she is. And it's not just a tactic to save herself. Many times, she was going the opposite direction. There seems to be a plan to stay longer in power," he said.

Monsod said he would like to give the President the " benefit of the doubt that she really thinks something's wrong with the system," but "if her primary purpose was to stay up to 2010 and if she can stay longer, she'll take it."

"She's not the type to say 2010 is the end of my political career," he said.

One Voice convenor Rene Azurin agreed: "I don't think she plans to step down."

Monsod also said that Malacañang officials' upbeat pronouncements about next year's mid-term elections were not a sign the administration was giving up on Charter change.

"If it's true that continuing power is the main objective, then 2007 elections is just a step. Constitutional change is still in the picture," he said.

To block people's initiative

While his colleagues had written off the two moves, Senate President and Nacionalista Party president Manuel Villar Jr. said that the move in the House to gather signatures in support of a constituent assembly remained alive.

"It looks like this is regaining vigor and this is worrisome. I can see that the House is still in the thick of gathering signatures even though we don't agree to this," he said. In the end, the court will decide the legality of the two moves, he said.

The One Voice convenors said they would block any move by the proponents of people's initiative to file a petition for amendment in the Comelec, or any subsequent case they would file in the high court.

So far, however, they doubted that Sigaw ng Bayan had gathered the required signatures in support of such a petition fair and square, saying they had information that some of the signatures were not verified by election officers in some areas.

"It's possible that they will go to the Supreme Court [to compel the Comelec to receive their petition], but we believe the SC will throw this out because we are not sure if they were able to comply with the 3 percent requirement," One Voice convenor Carlos Medina Jr. said.

Open to revise form of gov't

In a people's initiative, a petition for amendment requires the approval of 12 percent of the voting population, including at least 3 percent of the voters in every congressional district. Failure to gather the sufficient number of signatures in at least one congressional district would doom the people's initiative, law and constitutional experts had pointed out.

One Voice, however, is open to the idea of reviewing the merit of a major revision in the country's form of government through a constitutional convention after the 2007 elections "given the present climate of distrust and confrontation."

Such an exercise should be represented by a broad spectrum of society and backed by a massive campaign and national dialogue, it said.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said he expected the process of amending the Constitution to be completed in October or November. Plans to wrap up the move to adopt a parliamentary system earlier had been torpedoed by the Senate, he said.

"But the people's initiative now is nationwide, the tide has turned, it has become very strong," the Speaker said. " I think it should be presented in the next couple of weeks," he said.

'Healing, unifying force'

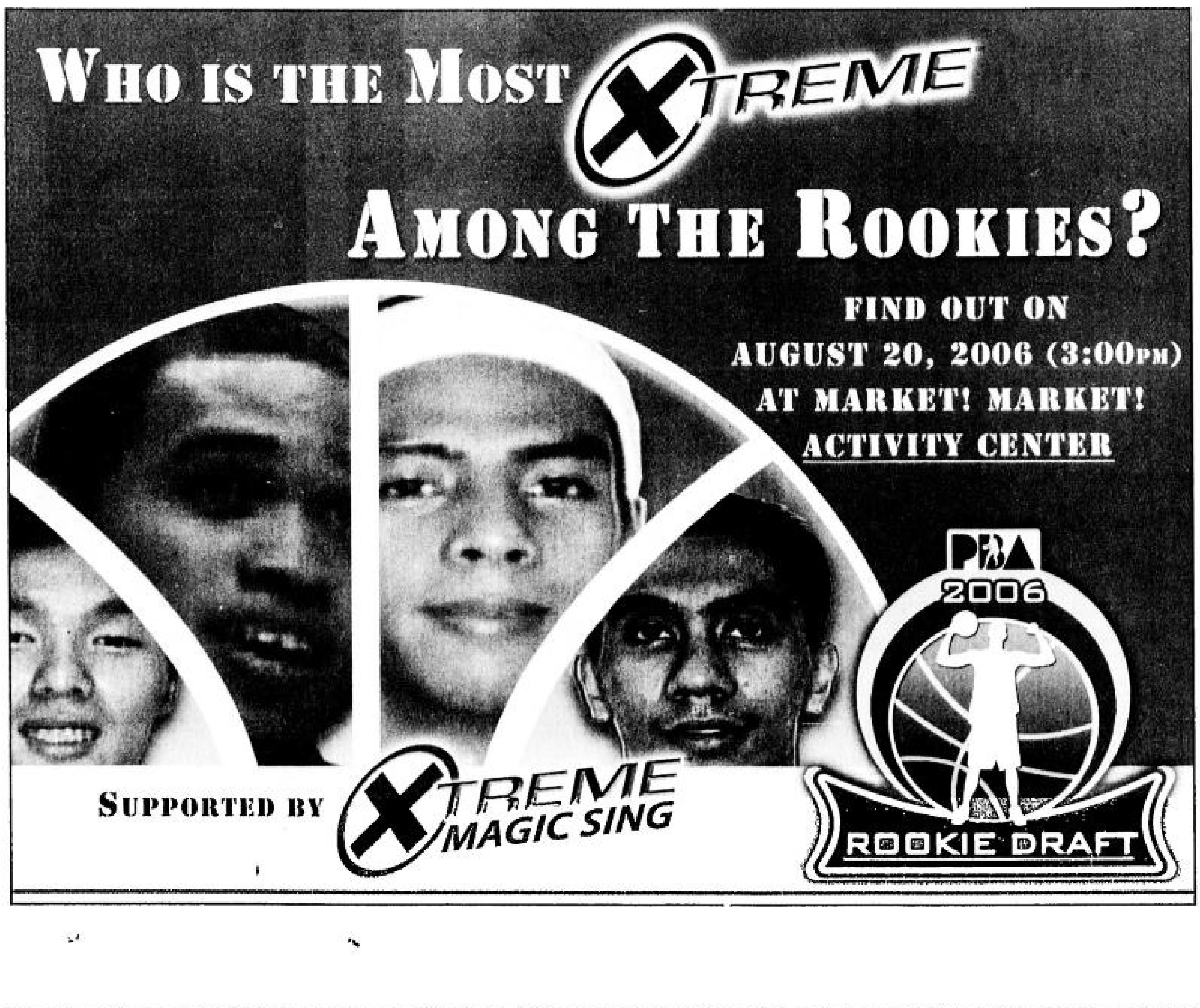
De Venecia said that the Arroyo administration intended to launch in the next few days a reconciliation effort with the opposition.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said that the reconciliation move was "appropriate and wise" given the need for Congress to address the "bigger elements in the agenda," including Charter change.

Claudio said that Charter change would be the "healing and unifying force" after the impeachment.

"It's an issue that should bind members of Congress together," he said in a phone interview, noting that an "overwhelming majority" of members in the House were for constitutional changes.

After all, the objective of Charter change was to institute political and economic reforms, Claudio said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*



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2 men claim cheating for GMA in '04 election

From page A1

dential candidate Loren Legarda filed an election protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro before the Supreme Court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

He said the operation was intended to manufacture 10,000 ERs to switch with those in the custody of the House and to match the certificates of canvass (CoCs) read during the canvass of votes for president and vice president by members of Congress.

Garcillano provided the pertinent Commission on Elections documents needed for the fraud, Rasalan said.

Asked to comment, James Arthur Jimenez, head of the Comelec education and information division, said that should a complaint be filed, a proper investigation would be called.

"Let's wait and see who these people are and we will verify their claims. It's very easy for them to say that they did this but the bottom line is, can they prove it?" Jimenez told reporters.

Filling up entries

In his own video, Colcol said he forged the municipal CoC of South Upi town in Maguindanao—filling up all entries on the document—a few days after the election.

He said he was instructed by South Upi election officer Haidy Mamalinta to ensure that Ms Arroyo got more than 3,000 votes, and Poe less than 2,000.

Colcol also said he was able to examine the genuine ERs, and determined that Poe got 2,141 votes and Ms Arroyo 1,445.

Colcol said he had listened to the "Hello Garci" tape purportedly containing tapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano, and was convinced that the part wherein the election commissioner told Ms Arroyo about his being in control of the election developments in South Upi had something to do with Mamalinta's instruction.

He also said he and some election officers met one Attorney Dato at the LTA Building in Makati City. (The building is owned by the family of the President's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.)

Dato purportedly instructed Colcol and company to issue a statement that the elections were clean, honest, peaceful and orderly in Maguindanao.

'Unholy conspiracy'

"Of course, based on the foregoing facts, it is clear that the results of the elections in Maguindanao, particularly in South Upi, were far from being clean and honest, principally because of the unholy conspiracy among Comelec officials and personnel," Colcol said.

"[I am] offering this narration of facts in the hope that the real and honest truth will finally surface with regard to the actual results of the 2004 national elections in Maguindanao, particularly in South Upi," he said.

Rasalan said he was also after the truth.

In response to a question posed to him in the video as to what he had intended to accomplish with his disclosure, he said: "The truth must come out. As simple as that. And because there is no political stability. And so something must be done.

"I am now signing my affidavit. I hope justice will be served from our actions and I hope the truth will come out."

The assignment

This was how Rasalan narrated the supposed events:

In July 2004, Bello met with him at the House of Minis steakhouse on C5 Road in Pasig City to involve him in the operation that was conducted in October-November 2004.

Bello said "the major headache of PGMA and De Castro was the fact that the votes written down for both of them in the provincial and city [CoCs] canvassed by Congress acting as the national board of canvassers were actually fabricated and bloated independently and in disregard of the actual results found in the authentic precinct ERs."

The lawyer told Rasalan that Ebdane had engaged him "upon orders of PGMA, to plan and execute a grand clandestine operation designed to head off [the] looming crisis."

Bello said that "with PGMA's knowledge and approval," he designed a plan to produce a new set of precinct ERs that would replace the genuine ERs.

Rasalan was recruited for the operation because he and Bello had worked together in many previous election operations, "and also because [Bello] knew that I have the necessary experience required in orchestrating this type of secret and highly sensitive operation."

'Seasoned forgers'

He was told to "closely work" with Bello's son El Bello, and was promised that he would be "rewarded generously."

Rasalan said the operation involved securing blank genuine Comelec ER forms, procuring supplies and necessary paraphernalia, hiring "seasoned and tested document and signature forgers" and transporting the fabricated ERs to the House and making the switch.

He said the fabricated ERs were to replace those from nine provinces—Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, Lanao .del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani in Mindanao and Isabela in Luzon.

Rasalan said Bello told him in September that they were in close coordination with Garcillano, who purportedly provided information on the ERs that would be altered and the election personnel whose signatures and thumbprints they would forge.

"[Bello] said the money for this special operation would be provided by PGMA. As a matter of fact, a few days thereafter, I was told by Attorney Bello that Commissioner Garcillano met with PGMA at her La Vista home to receive the money," Rasalan said, adding:

"[Bello] also said that Garcillano turned over this money to him."

This was how Rasalan continued his narration:

In the middle of October 2004, with the funds available, El Bello rented a large function room at Sogo Hotel on Banawe, Quezon City.

The monthlong operation began in mid-October with El Bello bringing a pile of blank genuine ERs bearing the appropriate Comelec markings.

El Bello also brought documents supplied by Garcillano, including original photocopies of ERs.

By then, El Bello had hired a batch of forgers (five to six persons who served as a secretariat and collated the data given by Garcillano), and more than 40 other persons (who wrote down the appropriate entries in the precinct ERs including the candidates' names, their corresponding taras and the names of the members of the board of election inspectors).

The teams worked close to 14 hours a day, fabricating the ERs for the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

The results for the other national and party-list candidates were not changed.

Upon completion, the 10,000 fake ERs were taken to Roque's residence in Brookside Hills, Cainta, Rizal. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

JOAN BONDOC

THE PRESSCON was cancelled but the affidavits of the two men who allegedly cheated for President Arroyo in the last presidential election, Clinton John Colcol and Arsenio Rasalan, were distributed to the media in front of St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Ave.

UST graduates...

From page A1

1. Patrick Leonard Go Co, University of Santo Tomas, 86.83; 2. Bernadine Co Chua, UST, 85.00; 3. Erwyn Carpela Novilla, Cebu Institute of Medicine, 84.67; 4. Beodaldy Paterno Bombeo, Cebu Doctors College of Medicine, 84.58; 5. Pamela Isa Evangelista Basilio, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas and Leonard Cheung Lim, UP Manila, 84.50; 6. Kristine Dueñas Tumabiene, UP Manila, 84.08; 7. Jun Maximo II Fuentespina Lasco, Cebu Institute of Medicine and John Paul Gerard Nazareno Rosales, UST, 84; 8. Mark Algara Sison, UST and Nathaniel Lim Yu Chua, UST, 83.67; 9. John Patrick Aguilar Sia, UP-Manila and Joseph Michael Romilla Zuñiga, UP-Manila 83.58; 10. Mark Angelo Cabillon Ang, UP-Manila and Roxanne Giselle Go Lim, UP-Manila, 83.42

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Powerful body to probe killings in the works

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A NEW COMMISSION THAT WILL look into the continuing political killings is in the works.

"President Arroyo is now mulling over her short list of appointees for a new, powerful commission that will probe the killing of journalists and activists," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

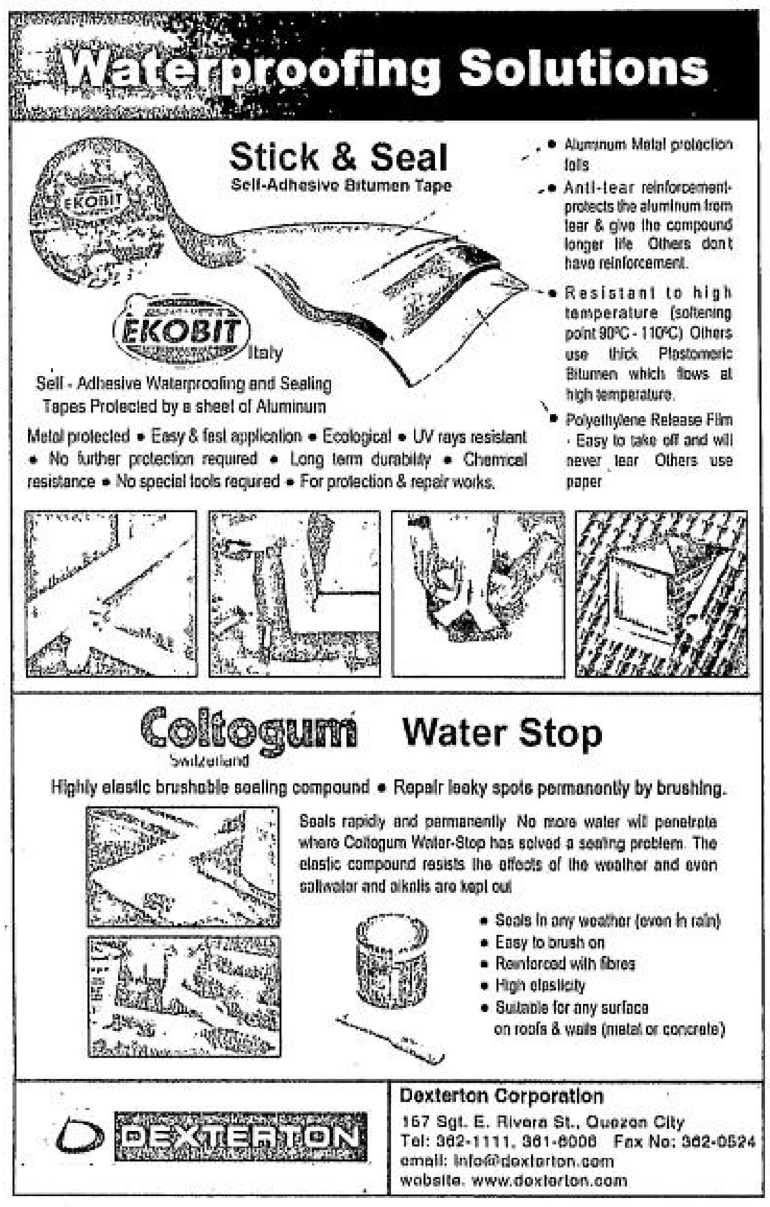
Bunye did not disclose the names on the list. But earlier, the President hinted that she might appoint a retired Supreme Court justice to head the body likely to be run as a truth commission.

"This commission will have the credibility and the clout to move ongoing probes forward, examine policy matters, recommend reforms and consolidate the effort to mete out justice," Bunye told reporters at a briefing.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the commission, which would work hand in hand with the police-led Task Force Usig, showed the President's sincerity in stopping and solving the murders.

Bunye reiterated that Ms Arroyo had condemned the killings in the strongest terms and that she was determined to take the necessary measures to protect human rights and uphold the rule of law.

The new commission was thought up by Malacañang after the London-based Amnesty International issued an unflattering report on the Arroyo's administration's record in solving the political killings, which, it said, should be a cause of "deep embarrassment."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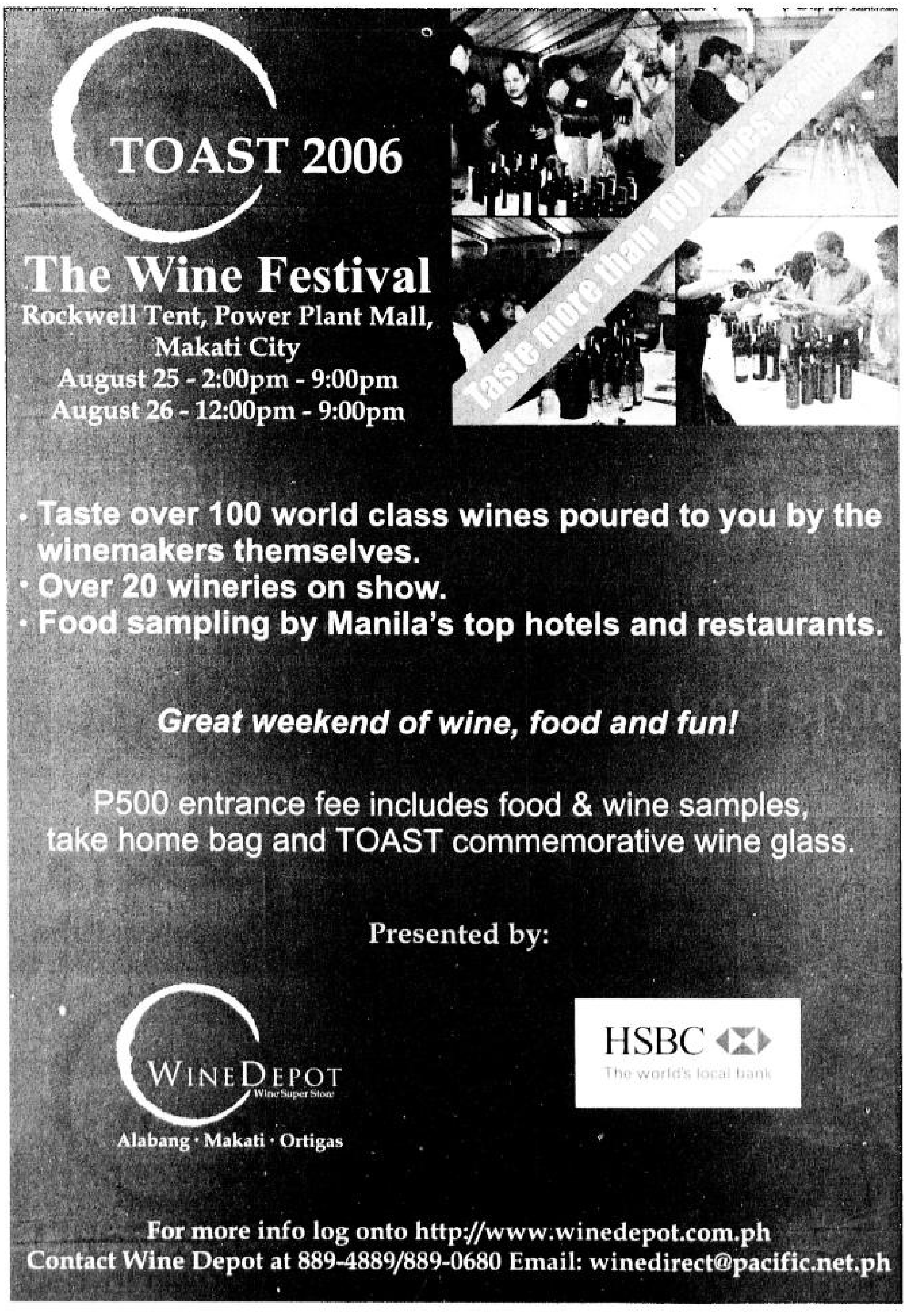
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More international Christian …

From page A1

South Africa, and World Council of Churches, as well as a Benedictine nun from St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

They noted that 18 church people had been killed in the last two years, 15 of whom were affiliated with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

In its statement, the United Methodist Church urged the Bush administration to "use its influence to prevent the imposition of martial rule or other severe means which would hinder democratic processes in addressing abuses."

"We wonder to what extent arms, ammunition, training, and encouragement given in our name and with our tax money are exacerbating this crisis," said the statement signed by R. Randy Day and James Winkler, the United Methodist Church's general secretaries for global ministries and church and society, respectively.

It called on the Arroyo administration to investigate such cases "immediately, seriously, and impartially."

It specifically appealed to the administration to "avoid labeling those working for economic justice, particularly among the poor, as 'subversives,'" and noted the "linkages between the current abuses and the police or the military."

The statement echoed the sentiments of some 60 former and current church workers in the Philippines.

Citing information from other Protestant denominations, the church workers said they had become "painfully aware of the extrajudicial killings, illegal detention and even torture of persons who have been critical of the government in its failure to address poverty, corruption, and the abuse of power."

Without letup

"We wish to express our profound sympathy to the victims of these abuses and their families," they said, adding:

"We express our appreciation for the courageous Filipino church leaders who continue to speak prophetically to this tragic crisis at great personal risk. We pledge to them our advocacy and our prayers."

As the hue and cry grew louder, the killing of leftist activists has continued without letup in Central Luzon, claiming three more lives since Tuesday, or one victim per day.

The rate has surpassed the record ratio of 1 victim per week since 2005, according to reports reaching the INQUIRER.

On Aug. 15, Sydney Santos, 30, of Barangay Iba Este in Calumpit, Bulacan, was shot dead.

The next day in nearby Barangay Sukol, village watchman and tricycle driver Danilo de Leon was killed. Six hours earlier, fisherfolk leader Orlando Rivera was shot dead in Obando, also in Bulacan.

Also on Aug. 16, in Barangay Culong in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, village councilor Julie Vasquez was gunned down as he attended a wake.

Santos, De Leon and Vasquez had one thing in common, according to Roman Polintan, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Central Luzon. He said the military had suspected them of being supporters of the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"More killings are happening as the retirement of [Maj. Gen. Jovito] Palparan draws near," Polintan said, referring to the military official whom militant activists had tagged "the butcher."

"Will we see 28 more killings up to Sept. 11?" he said, referring to Palparan's scheduled day of retirement, capping 33 years in the military.

86 since 2005

The killings have brought to 86 the death toll in Central Luzon since 2005. In addition, more than 40 activists have been abducted and not seen again.

In the case of Vasquez, he was killed right beside the detachment of the Army's 71st Infantry Battalion. Bayan's Polintan said no soldiers were in the detachment at the time.

Sought for comment on Vasquez's murder, Lt. Col. Gregory Cayetano, commander of the 71st IB, said the village councilor might have been killed to reinforce the "propaganda" on the *cedula* (community tax certificate) that Palparan had been requiring Nueva Ecija and Bulacan residents to present as ID.

Asked who could be behind the killing, Cayetano said: "No idea at this time."

In San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, where the ID system was said to be in full force, the military reported recovering a cache of firearms from the NPA in a raid in Villa Joson at 5 a.m. yesterday.

The firearms, two hand grenades and two sacks of antigovernment documents reportedly belonged to one Leopoldo Calusa, secretary of the Nueva Ecija CPP committee's Front 1.

Also yesterday, the urban poor group Kadamay reported that the doors of the houses of its members in Balaba, Phase 2, Purok 32 in Barangay Dau in Mabalacat, Pampanga, had been marked "X" with red paint, allegedly by soldiers from the 69th IB.

But Col. Ricardo Visaya, 69th IB commander, denied Kadamay's allegation.

'War criminal'

In Manila, militant lawmakers are considering using the recent report of Amnesty International as a means to indict the President as a "war criminal" before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"Under international humanitarian law, Ms Arroyo should be called to account for, and not absolved of, allowing or at least tolerating the brutal attacks on civilians and noncombatants," said House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna.

His fellow party-list lawmaker, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, said the President should be haled to the ICC for genocide.

Mariano said Ms Arroyo was "very afraid" not only of losing the Philippines' membership in the United Nations' Human Rights Council, but also of "being indicted globally as a war criminal."

"These are the reasons why she doesn't want UN probe teams here," he said.

Ocampo urged foreign governments and international groups to impose economic and political sanctions on the Arroyo administration, citing how the President's allies had thrown out an impeachment complaint that sought to hold her liable for the political killings, among other crimes.

He said the Wednesday night vote was "a transparent attempt" by Ms Arroyo's partymates and allies in the House "to exonerate her for the murder of 727 activists and other civilians perceived as opponents of her regime." *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac in Manila*

Kids find space in shadow of volcano

From page A1

a disaster, was launched on Monday by World Vision, one of the largest child-focused Christian relief and development organizations in the world.

"During disasters, children are usually left out while most activities are centered on the distribution of relief goods. The CFS is here to help the children live a normal life even though they are confined in evacuation centers under abnormal conditions," said Fe Olonan, a World Vision staff member and CFS team leader.

World Vision also put up child-friendly spaces for children displaced by the massive landslide that struck Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, on Feb. 17. Almost 2,000 people died in the disaster.

"The CFS is meant to pacify the feelings of children, who are usually stressed and traumatized during disasters. They may not always show it but some of them have feelings of fear," Olonan said.

She added that the break from their normal lives in their calamity-hit villages might also have psychological effects on children, which could manifest themselves later as they grow up.

"They are deprived of a family or home atmosphere for some time," she said.

Skills development

When the CFS opened at the San Roque Elementary School, 60 of the 253 child evacuees registered.

"We have trained volunteers who use a carefully designed module in teaching the children between 3 and 6 years old in a class of ideally 20 to 25 students," Olonan said.

She said children's skills were honed through various activities, like storytelling, learning new songs and making some art and craft items.

Children are also taught good grooming and proper hygiene.

"We just taught them how to comb their hair and we had to cut off their long fingernails. Tomorrow (Tuesday), we will buy headbands and ponytails for the girls," Olonan said as she supervised the children washing their hands before taking the free snacks.

Challenges

"The language barrier is one of the biggest challenges we volunteers face as we interact with these children. So we are continuously looking for Bicolano volunteers who could help bridge the gap," Olonan said.

Despite the heat inside the tent, the children, who sat on four beds covered with mats, enthusiastically raised their hands in response to a teacher's questions.

"We will still put up additional tents here to decongest the classes. We are also planning to put up a CFS in other evacuation centers but that would largely depend on the interest of school heads and barangay officials," Olonan said.

An evacuee, Gloria Malate, 34, said she was thankful that World Vision built the CFS at the center.

"Now my daughter Jerly will have something worthwhile to do rather than loiter on school grounds. It's really a big help for us," Malate said.

She said 4-year-old Jerly, who had just recovered from a fever, usually did not have proper sleep because of the noise in the evacuation center.

Emotional healing

"Jerly would have to sleep every night in one classroom of 60 individuals or 16 families. It is traumatic for children every time they lose the sense of family. The CFS is here to help them heal emotionally through child-friendly activities," Olonan said.

World Vision, in collaboration with other organizations, also facilitated the distribution of nonfood items to evacuees, like mosquito nets, blankets, plastic mats, flashlights, batteries and cooking pans to complement the government's food rations.

At San Roque Elementary School, a long line of at least 1,380 villagers or 312 families received relief goods from the organization on Monday afternoon.

World Vision plans to hand over relief goods to 3,000 families this week.

How it started

Genesis Jeff Lamigo, a member of the communications staff, said the World Vision was started by Bob Pierce, a young missionary in China and Korea, who set a guiding principle for all World Vision volunteers in 96 countries worldwide: "Let my heart be broken by the things that break God's heart."

The group began caring for orphans and refugees in Asia in the 1950s before it embraced larger issues of community development and advocacy for the poor as part of its basic mission to help children and families build a sustainable future.

Last year, its volunteers numbered more than 20,000 across the globe, serving at least 100 million people through the assistance of 5 million donors and supporters.

Since 1957, when it was established in the Philippines, World Vision has sent over 200,000 poor children to school. It currently assists more than 110,000 children in 33 provinces and 23 cities across the country.

According to Jose Berales Jr., coordinator for humanitarian and emergency affairs, the World Vision works through an international partnership.

World Vision-Philippines has a $620,000 funding proposal to international partners for Mayon relief operations. "So far, two countries—Taiwan and the United States—have pledged a total of $75,000," Berales said.

Calling all Xavier University alumni

ALL GRADUATES OF XAVIER UNIVERSITY (Ateneo de Cagayan) are invited to have a blast and attend the three-day 2006 Grand Alumni Homecoming festivities starting today, Aug. 18, in Cagayan de Oro City.

Xavier University Ateneo Alumni Association president Raul L. Noble said the organizers expect participants to come from all over the country and from the United States, Canada, Japan and China.

Noble said special activities have been lined up to renew and rekindle old ties.

These include tours around the city, golf tournaments, retro concerts, a motorcade, "Kapihan with the Alumni" and the Grand Alumni Homecoming night.

STUDENT AD CONGRESS The Philippine Daily Inquirer, together with Globe Telecom, is the presentor of the First Student Advertising Congress. Inquirer Libre serves as a media partner. The First Student Advertising Congress, with the theme "By the Youth, For the Youth," kicks off today at the FEU Auditorium. The congress will be highlighted by the tri-media competition using the Philippine Daily Inquirer as a real account. Shown in the photo are: seated (left to right) INQUIRER AVP and Marketing Director Josefina Adorable, Student Advertising Congress Project Director Ronald Esguerra, INQUIRER EVP and COO David Valdes and Executive Director of Student Advertising Congress Dan Villa; standing are (left to right) Chili Grass Advertising Managing Director Sarita Zafra and Product Manager for PDI and Inquirer Libre Ged Ventura.

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP7,304,718.13 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Operation & Maintenance of Pump Stations, Water Distribution System, STP, & Transmission Lines at the Cavite Economic Zone. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the operation and maintenance of CEZ's pump stations and sewerage treatment plants, its electro-mechanical components, equipment, safety devices, and control panel system twenty-four (24) hours daily. This includes the repair and maintenance of water and sewerage distribution/transmission lines, including installation/disconnection of water meters twenty-six (26) days each month for a period of one (1) year. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 11 to 25 August 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (PhP5,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 31 August 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 13 September 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted
8. Bid opening shall be on 13 September 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. III, Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

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THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–August 11 & 18, 2006)

ERRATUM

On the print ad of **Our Lady of the Pillar Medical Center**, which appeared on the August 11, 2006 issue of Philippine Daily Inquirer, the company name written on the bottom-most part of the ad should have read, **TECHNOMED INTERNATIONAL INCORPORATED** 4/F Medecor Building, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Tel. No.: 744-8646, 721-1320, 721-1860 Fax No.: 721-1850 E-mail: tecnomed@info.com.ph Website: www.info.com.ph. We apologize for any inconvenience it has caused.

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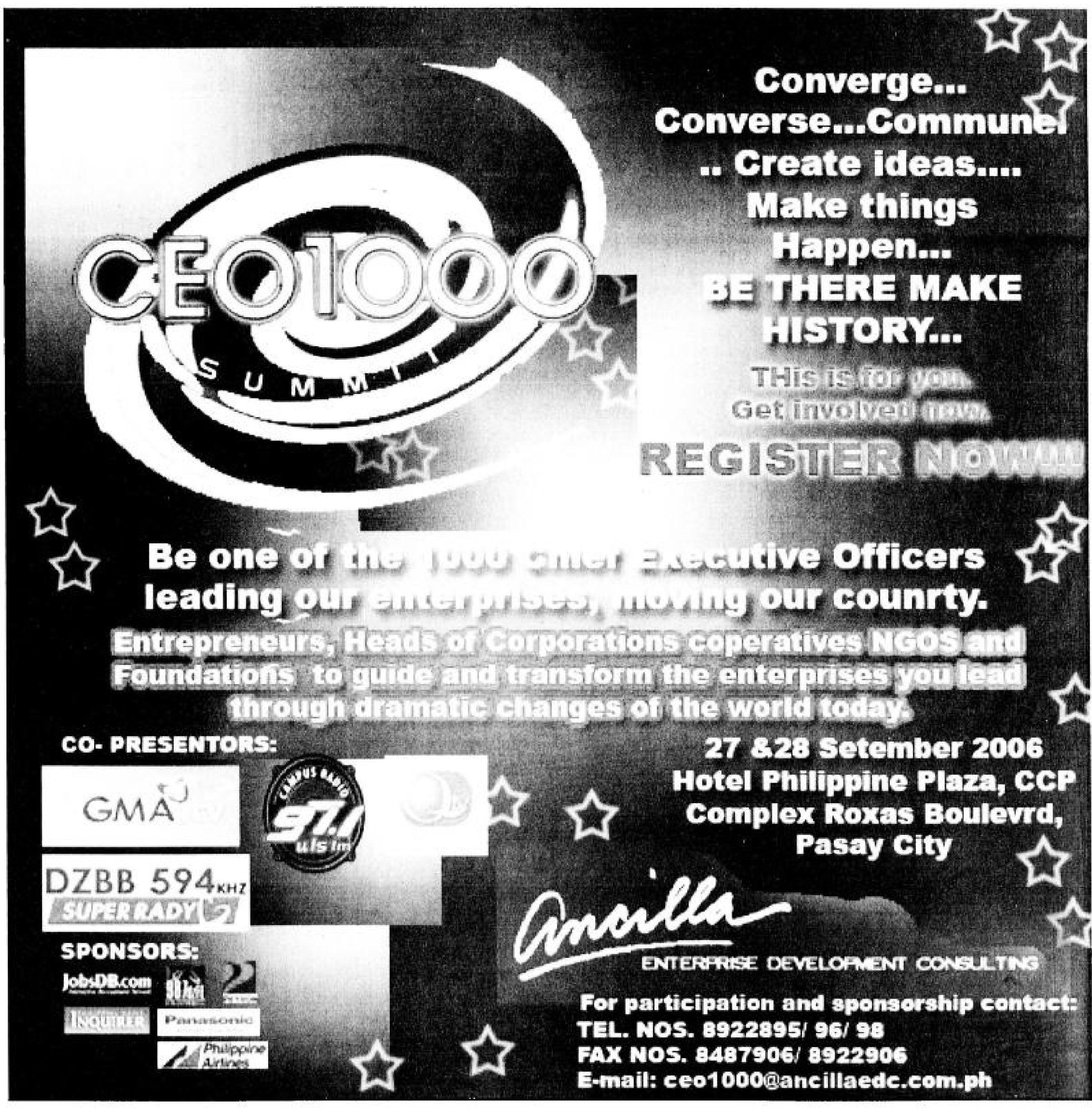
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Oil spill peril spreads

From page A1

Indonesia and Japan have yet to respond to a Philippine request for specialist teams. Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz suggested that the Philippines also seek help from the United States.

Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Coyme, spokesperson for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), said the Solar I, which sank Friday off Guimaras with 2 million liters of bunker fuel on board, would have to be refloated.

Coyme said the black sludge had already reached Negros, the country's fourth largest island, and contaminated the beaches of Bago City and two adjacent towns.

Improvised barriers

He said the PCG had instructed its officials in Guimaras to assist residents in building improvised oil spill booms to help keep the oil away from shallow water and the shoreline.

He said the residents could use indigenous materials like bamboo, straw, coconut husks, wood and other materials like oil drums, rubber tires, fishing nets and wire mesh for the booms.

The straw and coconut husks could be stuffed into nets that would be attached to materials that float like bamboo. The contraption would block the flow of the oil, with the straw and coconut husks absorbing the fuel.

"By teaching residents to make improvised barriers, the PCG can help them do something to prevent the oil from reaching their areas," Coyme said.

200 km of coastline affected

Guimaras officials have said the environmental disaster has affected more than 200 km of coastline, damaging mangrove swamps, seaweed plantations and coral reefs containing popular dive sites.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava said the spill had affected 20 barangays in three towns as of yesterday, up from 14 barangays three days ago.

Cmdr. Harold Jarder, Coast Guard station chief in Iloilo and on scene commander of the cleanup operations, said the latest aerial survey showed the spill was being carried by the current toward the sea between Guimaras and Negros Island.

"The threat of continued spreading is still there and it will remain as long as the sunken tanker remains in the area," Jarder told the INQUIRER.

Beyond reach of divers

Operations have been limited to the containment of the spill and the cleanup of debris because the tanker is beyond the reach of divers.

Jarder said more sophisticated equipment would be needed to retrieve the sunken tanks of bunker fuel.

"We do not know how many of the tanks are leaking and how much of the bunker fuel has already surfaced," he said. "Meanwhile, no one can predict in what direction the spill will go; it will all depend on the forces of nature."

Tugboat

The Coast Guard has deployed at least three boats to contain the oil slick.

The BRP Edsa II and BRP Ilocos Norte are stationed in the Guimaras Strait northeast of the site where the Solar I sank to try and block the spill.

Coast Guard teams have been spraying chemical dispersants.

Another Coast Guard vessel, the BRP Kalinga, will be deployed in the area along with a tugboat equipped with skimmers.

The tugboat "Wise," contracted by the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of the sunken vessel, has been deployed on the western coast of Guimaras.

It has put up an oil spill boom to stop the spill from spreading to the coast of the capital town of Jordan and to the Iloilo Strait.

At least eight vessels are expected to be deployed in the area within the week, said Jarder.

Hire residents in cleanup

The operator of the sunken vessel said it has started hiring affected residents for the cleanup operations.

Macario Macariola, safety officer of Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. and team leader of the operations, said the company will hire a member of each affected household to help in the cleanup.

Jarder said an aerial survey showed that a 5-km-long oil streak was 16 km from the shore of Binalbagan and Hinigaran towns in Negros Occidental, but these were dispersed after a Coast Guard team was sent to the area and sprayed a dispersant agent.

Negros Occidental has also sent Bantay Dagat teams to its southern coast to stop the oil from entering the province's waters, according to Jose Maria Valencia, spokesperson of the newly set up Provincial Oil Spill Task Force.

Nava said he had advised the residents of communities affected by the oil spill to move to areas away from the shoreline to avoid the pungent fumes of the bunker fuel. The priority areas include the villages of Lucayan, San Roque and La Paz in Nueva Valencia town.

Officials have advised residents not to eat fish from the contaminated waters as this might cause health problems.

Greenpeace visit

A team from the environmentalist group Greenpeace visited the affected areas yesterday to assess the impact of the disaster on marine life.

At least 3,000 fishermen from Guimaras have lost their livelihood as a result of the oil spill, according to the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

If the oil spill is not controlled, 10,000 to 15,000 fishermen across the Visayas will be adversely affected, according to Gerry Corpuz, information officer of Pamalakaya, an umbrella organization of fishers' groups in the country.

Corpuz said Petron should b
countable for the Guimaras Islan

Gov't liable

Corpuz said the government,
of the major stockholders of Petr
be held equally liable for the incid

"Petron and government shoul
ry the expenses for the speedy
the massive oil spill off Guimar
The government must provide fin
logistical assistance for the spee
of the oil spill," he said. *With rep*
Leila B. Salaverria in Manila;
Gomez and Jhunnex Napallaco
er Visayas, and AFP

TO PROTECT ITS SANCTUARY against oil contamination in the waters off Nueva Valencia in Guimaras, members of the Sout Asian Fishery Development Center use rubber floaters. 1,128 hectares of mangroves have already been affected.

RP warned only 5 percent of coral reefs in top form

From page A1

rine Resource Management.

Mangroves are nursery grounds for reef fish and other commercial species of economic and ecological value.

Hazardous wastes

The World Bank has also found that half of the sea grass beds in the country have either been lost or severely degraded.

It said Philippine marine waters were affected by domestic and industrial wastes, agrochemical run-offs, siltation and sedimentation, toxic and hazardous wastes, and oil pollution.

"The economic costs of environmental degradation of coastal and marine resources are significant," said Jitendra Shah, World Bank Country Sector Coordinator and Team Leader for the PEM.

He said the economic benefits of Philippine coastal resources were estimated at P180 billion a year.

"Yet habitat loss, unsustainable fishing practices (e.g., use of dynamite and cyanide) and the continuing trade in endangered marine species are increasingly threatening coastal biodiversity and livelihoods," Shah said.

He placed the economic loss from overfishing at P6.5 billion a year.

Human toll

At a briefing, Shah said red tides, harmful algal blooms largely caused by increasing pollution loads, had reduced potential fish exports by P1.6 billion.

The report said the human toll was also significant.

"Premature deaths among the working population due to water pollution in Manila Bay have an immeasurable human impact and are estimated to cause productivity losses of P310 million per year," the bank said in a statement.

"Moreover, coastal communities that depend directly on fish and other coastal and marine resources for their livelihood are among the poorest in the Philippines, with 4 of 10 coastal residents living under the poverty line," it said.

Annual household income levels of coastal residents are as low as P24,000, compared with the national average of P144,000, according to the PEM 2005.

Fishing license system

Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank country director, said there was a pressing need to rehabilitate the country's coral reefs because they contribute at least P70 billion annually to the economy, equivalent to 1.4 percent of the gross domestic product.

Von Amsberg said that sustainable management of fisheries resources should include an effective fishing license system that would control access to fishing areas and the type of gear to be used should be identified for municipal fishing.

Existing national laws and regulations already provide a basic framework for coastal management. However, the existing framework is not sufficient to achieve coordinated and integrated coastal resource management that cuts across economic sectors and all levels of government, Shah pointed out.

Resource management

"An integrated coastal resources management approach has been introduced in some local government units bu
tional government and the legisl
ies have not officially taken this
initiative," he said.

He said the issue of equity (
sharing) in coastal resource ma

IN THE KNOW

RP a biodiversity 'hot spot'

THE PHILIPPINES WAS RECENTLY IDENTIFIED AS A BIODIVERSITY "hot spot"—an area where "biological wealth is most distinctive and rich, and where its loss will be most severely felt if conservation efforts are not successful."

Some 25 major cities lie on the coast, and more than 60 percent of the country's 88 million Filipinos live on the coastal zone. In 2000, it was estimated that there were 2,467 people for every kilometer of coastline.

The Philippines has one of the longest coastlines in the world, stretching 36,289 kilometers, and featuring extensive coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove forests and beaches. These various coastal zone ecosystems are interconnected. It is impossible to affect one without affecting the others.

There are approximately 26,000 sq km of Philippine reefs, 98 percent of which were reported at risk from human activities, while total mangrove cover as of 1995 had been reduced to 138,000 hectares, compared with 450,000 hectares in 1918.

Of the 978 sq km of sea grass beds that have been identified, around half have already been lost or degraded since 1950, with degradation rates increasing due to land reclamation and pollu

Coral reefs provide habitat, feeding and spawning area for
rine organisms such as fish, mollusks, marine worms, crustaceans, algae and sponges.

Mangroves protect coasts from storms, erosion and flood
and help purify water. They are also important feeding sites f
many commercially important fish species, shrimps, prawns
mollusks, crabs and sea cucumber.

Sea-grass beds, aside from providing an "intermediate bu
for coral reefs that protect coasts and mangroves from stron
waves, support young fish, shrimps, prawns, crabs, sea urch
and sea cucumbers. They also serve as feeding grounds for
rine turtles and the highly endangered dugong.

The country's seas contain some of the most diverse ecos
tems, where a total of 2,818 species of marine fishes and so
10,000 species of marine invertebrates can be found. Of the
species of stony corals, 488 can be found in the country, whi
five of the world's eight known species of sea turtles can also
found here.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Rese

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Semirara cleanup isn't even done yet

STORMY WEATHER IN DECEMBER 2005 battered Power Barge 106 of the National Power Corp., which was being towed by a tugboat from Masbate to Oriental Mindoro, causing it to run aground 200 meters off the shore of Sitio Bobog, Barangay Semirara in Antique.

The accident damaged the barge's fuel tanks, which carried 800,000 liters of bunker oil, and led to what a Coast Guard official later described as the biggest oil spill in Philippine history.

The spill contaminated about 40 sq km of waters off Semirara island, killed marine life, and damaged 236 hectares of mangroves bordering the island.

Napocor employed 250 residents to help Coast Guard personnel in the cleanup operations. The state-owned agency also promised to shoulder the estimated P90-million cleanup cost.

Napocor reported last February that more than 80 percent of Semirara's shoreline and 30 percent of its mangrove areas had been cleared of oil.

As of July, cleanup teams had collected 74 drums of bunker fuel and 75,000 sacks of contaminated material, of which 68,000 sacks had been transferred to a permanent dump on the island. Napocor spokesperson Dennis Gana said the ecosystem has "significantly improved and is on its way to full recovery."

Scientists from the University of the Philippines in Visayas, however, said the pre-oil spill status of the island could no longer be restored.

Preliminary results of study commissioned by UP Visayas showed that the social and environmental impact of the accident could amount to billions of pesos.

Researchers said the livelihood of at least 184 families, who mostly relied on fishing, shell-gathering and seaweed farming, had been affected adversely. Health problems like stomachaches were experienced by residents, especially those engaged in cleanup operations.

Napocor allotted P15 million for livelihood assistance to affected families. It is still in the process of finalizing the list of claimants.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

need to be addressed.

In 2005, about 26 percent of 362 legally established marine protected areas (out of the 500) in 150 municipalities in 36 provinces were managed in a sustainable manner. Forty-four percent were developing management systems.

"The remaining 30 percent lack sufficient data to evaluate and generally lack management," Shah said.

User fees

The study recommended that co-management arrangements, especially with local communities, should be enhanced to promote a sense of ownership.

"User fees should be charged from tourists and divers alike and this increases the communities' income and could further finance other livelihood forms," Von Amsberg said.

The study noted that fees from resource users and visitors in Mabini, Batangas; Gilutongan Island in Cordova in Cebu; and Apo Island in Negros Oriental were helping protect the coastal and marine resources there and were providing livelihood to residents.

"There is a strong need to provide alternative livelihoods that generate income especially for poor coastal communities in order to allow degraded stocks to recover," Von Amsberg said.

PEM 2005 is a joint report of the World Bank and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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A scheduled funeral

EDITORIAL

THE DECISION, OF COURSE, WAS A FOREGONE conclusion. The House committee on justice voted 56-24 Wednesday night to bury the impeachment complaint filed by the Black and White Movement against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

There was no question that a burial would in fact take place. The only genuine source of possible surprise was how the undertakers in Congress—the President's allies, who dominate the chamber—would dispose of the corpse, and which civic pieties their eulogies might invoke.

Surprisingly, Rep. Edcel Lagman, who played a similarly crucial role in the dismissal of last year's impeachment complaint, met the fundamental criticism against the majority position head-on. In his summing-up speech, Lagman denied that the administration coalition was "killing" the complaint. "It was already dead on arrival," he said. "What was brought before the committee on justice was a cadaver of a complaint."

To be sure, the House as a whole will have to either reject the committee's dismissal or endorse it, possibly some time early next week. But the outcome of that vote, too, is already written in stone—a marble tombstone, ready to be placed at the head of the grave.

The decision to find the Black and White complaint lacking in sufficiency of substance went by the book; in a strict sense, the President's allies can point to the dismissal as a triumph of rule-making. The rules of impeachment the House adopted last year (at the insistence of the opposition) were again followed this year. But we are constrained to belabor the obvious: Sometimes, procedure killeth the spirit of the law.

Strip the arguments of the President's allies in the House to their core, and we find the cynicism of political arithmetic. The administration coalition had the numbers, and in the end that was what mattered. Whatever the political tactic was—last year it was the whole issue of prejudicial questions, this year it was a reinterpretation of the meaning of initiation or even the lack of annexes—the House leadership could always mobilize their superior numbers in both the justice committee and in plenary to deliver the outcome they wanted.

The cynicism is more pronounced this year, precisely because last year's impeachment experience was still rather new and laden with risk. This year, the House leadership was confident enough to predict when the decisive votes would take place and how many days the entire process would take. What was the basis for this overwhelming confidence? Last year's experience, yes, but mainly this year's numbers.

In their unguarded moments, administration leaders acknowledge that impeachment is a political process, and therefore is only another numbers game.

We are not so sure. Indeed, looking at the debris this year's impeachment struggle has left in the House, we wonder whether this insistence on the political aspect of impeachment is misplaced, or a willful misunderstanding of the framers' intent. The language of the Constitution shows that the legal aspects of the impeachment procedure cannot be understood as merely metaphorical. The list of impeachable offenses ("high crimes"), the standard of impeachment ("conviction"), the nature of the process ("trial"), the powers of the Senate as impeachment court ("the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment")—all these tell us that the framers were not offering an analogy, but describing the actual legal dimension of the nature of impeachment.

While the process is also political, it is not, it cannot be, only political. Otherwise, consider the following scenario of divided government: A president facing an opposition Congress can be impeached through sheer number. ("Betrayal of public trust" is a charge wide enough to include anything the leadership of the House can think of.) That would mean that at least one-third of the membership of the House can effectively negate the mandate given to an elected chief executive by the sovereign people.

Surely this is not what the framers had in mind. But that is exactly where the administration coalition's funeral march is bringing us: Congress as democracy's tree-lined, wind-swept graveyard.

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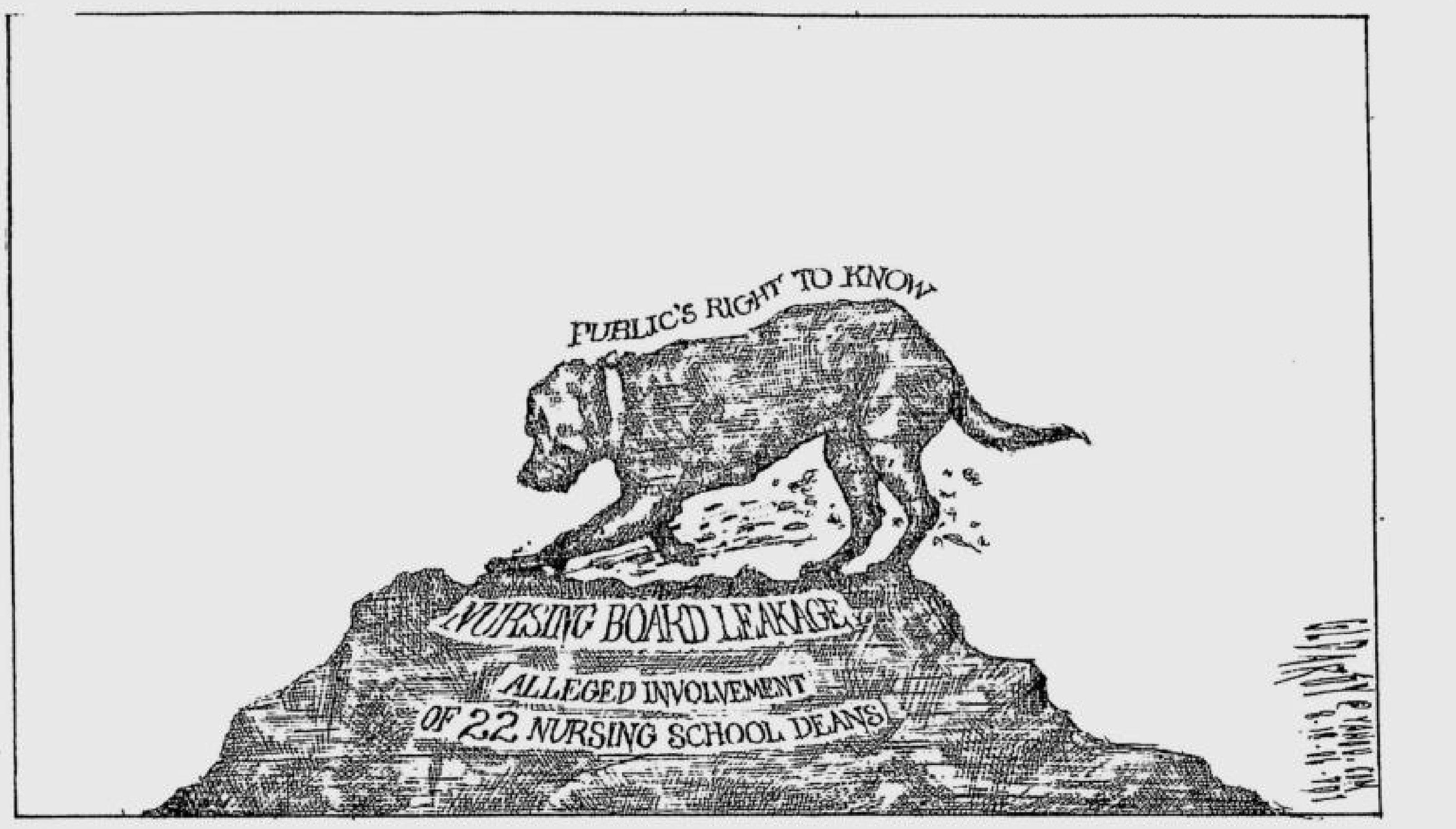
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Smoking guns at Poro Point

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE SENATE COMMITTEE THAT WILL INVESTIGATE the forcible takeover of the Poro Point seaport should subpoena all the documents and correspondence relating to the port and the consortium operating it. When I had the opportunity to look at those documents, I found many smoking guns that show the motives and the steps taken leading to the takeover.

What the documents indicate is that although officials of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) have long wanted to take over the port, the forcible raid was a last resort, a bungled rush job the justifications for which were made later on. In other words, it was a patchwork of remedial measures which shows the malice behind their actions.

The BCDA president, retired Gen. Narciso Abaya, said at a press conference that the armed forcible takeover of the Poro Point port was "due to environmental reasons" and a cease-and-desist order (CDO) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). But the documents show that the BCDA and the PPMC are using the environment issue only to circumvent an existing injunction slapped on them by the regional trial court of San Fernando City against taking over the port.

They show that the CDO was hastily issued. The request by the BCDA and the PPMC was received by Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes at 12:20 p.m. of July 25. The CDO was released on the very same day.

Abaya said that the DENR was merely acting on a complaint filed by San Fernando City Mayor Maryjane Ortega. There is indeed an Ortega letter, but this was written on Aug. 1, five days after the DENR issued the CDO. It appears that the letter of complaint was an afterthought—to justify the issuance of a CDO.

Abaya said the Poro port has no Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). Wrong. The port is covered by an ECC issued by Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles as early as May 2000.

Abaya said the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) requires a separate ECC. Wrong again. The PPIC is not an individual locator but is manager of the facility and therefore requires no separate ECC. This is what the Cerilles order shows.

The supreme irony of this forcible takeover of the PPIC by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)—at the instance of the BCDA and the PPA—is that they were moving against themselves. The PPIC is partly owned by the two agencies. The PPIC is merely a consortium that is 70 percent owned by the private investor (who put up all the capital and operation expenses) and 30 percent owned by the BCDA and PPMC. If that CDO hastily issued by the DENR against the PPIC were valid, the BCDA and PPMC cannot take over the port. They are part of the PPIC.

If Ortega's complaints were valid, then the BCDA and the PPMC would be equally guilty since they are the co-owners of PPIC.

What is coming out is that there was really pressure from somebody very powerful to take over the PPIC, as BCDA general counsel Arnel Casanova admitted in his letter to Abaya and the BCDA board. Casanova said there was pressure for him to reverse the conclusion of a legal study that there is no legal basis for a BCDA takeover of Poro Point from the private investor.

I am very happy to report, however, that the pressure did not come from President Macapagal-Arroyo. The minutes of a Cabinet meeting on Jan. 24, 2006 proves this. The meeting was called by the President precisely to discuss the Poro Point contract. Her economic managers and BCDA board members were present.

According to somebody who was present during the meeting, the President looked for Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson before the meeting started. "Where is Governor Chavit?" the witness quoted her as saying. "He should be here because I called this meeting precisely to discuss the issues he raised on the legality of the Poro Point contract. *Di ba* Jun (referring to BCDA and PPMC Chair Filadelfo "Jun" Singson Rojas) *'yan ang usapan natin.* Governor Singson's lawyer at least should be here. *Kung wala siya,* then we better adjourn this meeting."

That's a very big smoking gun showing that it was Singson who raised the issue of the PPIC's contract with the President and that she called a Cabinet meeting to discuss it. Proof that the takeover was not her idea. Whose idea it is, you can draw your own conclusion.

And were retired Generals Reyes (of DENR) and Leandro Mendoza (of the Department of Transportation and Communications) and Mayor Maryjane Ortega used by the BCDA and the PPMC in the plot? Knowing these personalities, they would not have acted recklessly.

* * *

The Sta. Cruz Church in Manila will resound not with religious but popular music today as the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of Our Lady of the Assumption, celebrates its golden anniversary with a thanksgiving concert. The show, "50 Years na Kami," will feature the Tiongco Brothers, Marri Nallos, the Crystal Voice of Asia; Juan Rodrigo, the telenovela pioneer; and an upcoming classical pop singer, Christian. Proceeds of the show will go to the S.S.S. Foundation, set up to finance the growing number of our seminarians. For other details, call Tel. Nos. 733-2978 and 733-0245 to 46.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Congressman 1: Have you heard? *'Yung mga pumirma raw sa* impeachment complaint *nag*-withdraw *na*.

Congressman 2: *Syanga*? Withdraw *na rin tayo. Saang bangko*?

Unworthy beneficiaries of Ninoy's sacrifice

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WORRIED THAT the next generation would not remember. Today I worry that there are many of us now who have begun to forget.

At Edsa I, a foreigner noticed that the anthem of the Filipino activists was "Bayan Ko," a *kundiman* more melancholy than inspiring (like the "Marseillaise") or bracing for battle (like "The Star-Spangled Banner"). Indeed, contrast this: Locally, the popular image of Ninoy is that sculpture depicting him as he fell onto the airport tarmac, while at Harvard's Coolidge Center, also known as the Center for International Affairs, Ninoy's portrait shows him in his element, with a bright spontaneous smile and a cheer in his eye (and with jet-black, pomaded hair, mind you) that capture the man's gift for repartee.

As we watched the administration congressmen perorate to block President Macapagal-Arroyo's impeachment, who wouldn't go for the maudlin strains of "Bayan Ko"? First, they found every way to stretch the one-year bar on impeachment to block the complaints. Then, they ignored ethical standards and allowed even those with a conflict of interest to take part in the vote.

When one complaint still survived, they blocked the showing of any evidence, saying that the complaint must be judged on its face (which by the way already included the vital documents in evidence, just to be on the safe side). Then having prevented the "presentation" of evidence, these same congressmen then indignantly complained: Where's the evidence?

All that the Rules of Impeachment say is: "The requirement of substance is met if there is a recital of facts constituting the offense charged ..." This minimal test can be easily explained: because if the complaint is sufficient in substance, that doesn't mean that the President is already impeached, that she will then already stand trial before the Senate. No, "sufficiency" is just a preliminary stage. All it means is that she will then be asked to answer the charges before the House, fully in accordance with due process. No, I didn't speak to Garci. No, we didn't talk about harassing uncooperative election registrars. No, I didn't channel the fertilizer money into my campaign war chest. No, I never ordered or tolerated the thrice-a-week murders of Bayan Muna activists. Simple really, if one has the truth on his side. Quite complicated otherwise.

But even that she thwarts, because her goal is to prevent the public from seeing the evidence. Her defenders said that if she cheated, she did so before she was declared the winner at 3 a.m. on June 24, 2004. (When else would she have cheated, I wonder?) Yet the complaint carefully begins by saying that she took her solemn oath, not once but twice—to "preserve and defend its Constitution, execute its laws, do justice to every man"—at Edsa II in January 2001 and in Cebu in July 2004. Whichever oath she betrayed, cheating her way to victory would be impeachable.

The congressional majority has shown outright indifference to the issue of legitimacy. Perhaps they know Pinoy culture so well that given a choice between a leader who is fair and one who is strong, the Pinoy will choose the caudillo over the fair-minded but soft-hearted democrat. But as the ultimate caudillo in Philippine history learned painfully at Edsa I, even that has its limits.

When I see these undeserving heirs to Ninoy's death, I ask myself: So this is the Filipino who is worth dying for? Ninoy's legacy was built from seven years of imprisonment (the first year, without charges), including several stretches of solitary confinement, a hunger strike and the personal torment and indignities endured by his loved ones. His appeals were all spurned by a spineless Supreme Court now doomed to history's harsh verdict.

When one of his writings was smuggled out of prison and published in a Bangkok newspaper, he was transferred to a camp in Laur, Nueva Ecija, where he was held in a windowless cell that was bare except for a steel bed without a mattress. When he arrived, he was stripped naked, his wedding ring, watch, shoes, clothes taken. In his diary, he wrote: "I expected to be 'liquidated' at any moment ... I was haunted by the thought of my family ... At this point of ... desolation, I questioned the existence of God. [I recalled the words:] *Hindi natutulog ang Diyos* ... but I felt, at that moment, he was having a very sound *siesta*, and I was afraid that when He finally woke up I would be gone.!" (Of his eventual turn to deep faith, he chuckled: "I am sure this will please my mother no end.")

A reader e-mailed to say that Marcos was different from Arroyo. Marcos relied on martial law and an entire climate of fear and yet, today, the reader said, we are free to speak and criticize the government. Indeed, he can offer further proof: that Amnesty International reprimand of GMA could not have been a banner headline under a Marcos-style martial law; it would have been mentioned in passing by Doroy Valencia mocking Amnesty and its Nobel Peace Prize.

But that doesn't mean that Gloria is not a "cheap, second-rate copycat" of Ferdinand. Gloria has simply modernized the tools of intimidation. Targeted killings and arrests keep the violence below the radar screen. They leave the rest of the urban, articulate populace unscathed, but batter the voiceless in the countryside. They give the majority every excuse to be indifferent and no incentive to care.

Remember that when Ninoy said the Filipino was worth dying for, the nation he knew was mostly silenced and apathetic, unworthy of his sacrifice. I joined the millions who marched from Sto. Domingo Church during his funeral, and in that "one brief shining moment" learned that he actually dared us to prove him right.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Apocalypse after Lebanon ceasefire

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE APOCALYPTIC DEVASTATION LEFT IN southern Lebanon by the 33-day war has unfolded as a massive exodus of civilians streamed back to their ruined homes in convoys against a landscape described by one reporter as "a place of pancaked homes, blasted walls, rubble, starving cats and trapped corpses."

Hezbollah guerrillas walked amid the ruins, said the on-site report of the Independent newspaper (London), "with the air of conquering heroes," distributing yellow and green "victory" flags to returning families in massive traffic jams "around broken motorway bridges and craters which litter the landscape."

The United Nations ceasefire that ended the war last Monday did not give Hezbollah guerrillas or Israel, which had rained bombs on southern Lebanon, cause for celebration. Nor did the ceasefire end the uncertainties of the refugees, the victims of what has been cynically described by agents of destruction as "collateral damage" (a much abused term to justify killings and havoc on infrastructure).

Although Israeli troops have begun to withdraw and a UN international peacekeeping force has begun to deploy in southern Lebanon to enforce compliance with the truce, which calls for the disarmament of Hezbollah fortifications inside Lebanon, the truce remained shaky. Israel has delayed its withdrawal until the UN force, built on the core of a weak Lebanese army, has been deployed to dismantle the Hezbollah facilities that rained thousands of rockets on Israeli cities and settlements across the border of southern Lebanon. Hezbollah backers, Iran and Syria, have indicated they would begin resupplying with missiles as soon as Lebanon's borders are reopened.

A former head of the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon captured vividly the destruction inflicted on the country when he said people are starting to realize that "this isn't a war against Hezbollah, it's a war against the country, against the infrastructure."

This statement illustrates the point that Lebanon had become a pawn of "the Great Game" of powers outside the borders of the country. One newspaper correspondent, writing from Beirut, reported that three weeks after the war started on July 12, "it's clear that few are blameless in this conflict: Hezbollah for kidnapping (Israeli) soldiers and the barrage of rockets they fired toward northern Israel from southern Lebanon; Israel for what many in the international community consider a disproportionate response to the provocation; and the West, specifically the United States and Britain, for not endorsing an immediate ceasefire that could have helped prevent so much death and destruction; the casualties may now include the West's foreign policy interests in the Middle East."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan lamented that the Security Council's "inability to act sooner has badly shaken the world's faith in its authority and integrity," not to mention to avert large-scale destruction that claimed the lives of about 1,500 innocent civilians.

The newspaper report cited above observed that the biggest loser is Lebanon. The war, the report said, had set back the country's economy after it had turned the economic and political corner from the devastating civil war in the '70s and '80s. "Lebanon was more interested in economic growth than military might, pumping billions into hotels, restaurants, resorts and business, hoping to regain the title the 'Paris of the Middle East,' and for a short time it succeeded." Now the hope is in ruins.

In this "Great Game," the big powers—the United States, the main backer of Israel, and Syria and Iran, which have supplied Hezbollah the missiles—lurk in the background. They have been waging their foreign policy conflicts on Lebanese soil through their proxies.

Revealing the US hand in the "Great Game," journalist Seymour Hersh reported in New Yorker magazine that the Bush administration was informed in advance and gave the "green light" to Israel's military strikes against Hezbollah, with plans drawn up months before two Israeli soldiers were seized last July 12. The report said the United States considered Israel's actions "as a necessary prerequisite for a possible strike against Iran."

Hersh reported that early in summer, Israeli officials visited Washington to brief the government on its plan to respond to any Hezbollah provocation and to "find out how much the US would bear." Hersh quoted an unidentified US government consultant with close ties to Israel as saying, "The Israelis told us it would be a cheap war with many benefits. Why oppose it? We'll be able to hunt down bomb missiles, tunnels and bunkers from the air. It would be a demo for Iran."

Last month, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that "Israel's military response by air, land and sea to what is considered a provocation last week by Hezbollah militants, was unfolding according to a plan finalized more than a year ago." Unidentified officials, according to the Chronicle, said a strike could "ease Israel's security concerns and also serve as a prelude to a potential preemptive attack."

The paper reported that an anonymous Middle East expert had argued with State Department officials that "If there was to be a military option against Iran's nuclear facilities, it had to get rid of weapons that Hezbollah could use in a potential retaliation at Israel. Bush was going after Iran, as part of the 'axis of evil,' and nuclear sites, and he was interested in going after Hezbollah as part of his interest in democratization."

The White House has denied the allegations contained in Hersh's article, dismissing it as "patently untrue."

Marketing, marketing, marketing

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NEWS HAS IT THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAS reversed itself and granted the petition of multinational milk manufacturers to stop the Department of Health from implementing the revised implementing rules and regulations on the marketing of infant formula.

The pharmaceutical and health care manufacturers had alleged that the new rules would mean "an absolute ban on advertising, marketing, promotion, product sampling, or sponsorship of breast milk substitutes," which they claimed constituted "restraint of trade" and was unconstitutional as well.

The old Milk Code, if I remember right, banned all advertising for infant formula and required that ads for older children contain the reminder that "breast milk is best for infants up to 2 years." This didn't stop the marketers, however, from exploring ways to skirt the ban, from marketing brands for children "1 and up," to promoting brands based on the premise that children nourished on them were brighter, more talented and thus better raised.

This is precisely the sort of propaganda that has convinced millions of mothers around the world that by choosing the bottle over the breast, they are being better mothers, adopting an "advanced" and "modern" means of feeding their babies that will make their babies healthier and more intelligent.

Now, the word "propaganda" is sure to raise the hackles anew of letter-writer Candice Lopez-Quimpo who objected to my calling mothers who choose to bottle feed "dummies." I'm sorry I hurt her feelings, and for someone with a spotted record in this regard, I would certainly be the last person to claim absolute moral ascendancy on this issue.

* * *

BUT then again, Candice, given a fair and equitable choice between bottle and breast, and the clear advantages to be gained for both child and parents from breastfeeding, you'd really have to be a dummy to choose the bottle.

Infant formula was formulated to provide an alternative for mothers who could not, for physiological reasons, breastfeed their newborns or find a wet nurse. Since then, it has evolved into a false "necessity," one created by clever advertising and aggressive marketing.

I'm sure mothers who choose to bottle-feed tell themselves they have perfectly good reasons for their choice—be it such trivial reasons as fear of sagging breasts or darkened nipples, or more reasonable ones such as convenience, desire to return to work immediately or frustration with breastfeeding.

But it can't be denied that the bottle is obviously the inferior choice, and that by bottle-feeding you are denying your child an important resource that nature went to such great lengths to create and to which your child has a right.

Am I saying that you love your child less? I am certainly not, and I'm sure many parents who choose the bottle believe that they are doing so precisely because they love their child and would want to give him/her a better future. But I should also point out that they are misled.

* * *

THIS would all be a mere issue of rhetoric, interpretation and hurt feelings if we lived in the developed world, where bottle-feeding would be safe—barring careless parents and caregivers—because there's plentiful supply of potable water and fuel for boiling water, and where presumably poverty would not force parents to use less than the recommended and healthy amount of formula for feedings.

But in a poor developing country like the Philippines, bottle-feeding poses a serious health risk for babies. The reason so many bottle-fed babies get sick of diarrhea is that the water used for their feeding was unclean or else it wasn't boiled or was kept in an unclean container. Another possible reason is that the bottles and nipples weren't sterilized, because sterilization requires fuel for boiling water, and clean water for boiling.

When money is tight, poor parents are often forced to dilute the formula, in an effort to make the milk supply last longer. Or they use other kinds of milk, like evaporated milk or even condensed milk, which are not suitable at all—dangerous, in fact—for the babies' immature digestive systems.

Babies fed by the bottle are also vulnerable to infections because infant formula does not contain the natural immunity that breast milk provides. No matter how many nutrients and vitamins milk manufacturers "add on" to their brands, they still cannot match the nutritional value of breast milk, which countless scientific studies have found to be far superior to the artificial version.

* * *

SO while nobody's saying that infant formula by itself is dangerous, in certain circumstances and environments, bottle-feeding can and does kill babies. And the reason so many mothers have chosen to reject breastfeeding in favor of bottle-feeding? Marketing, marketing, marketing.

Advertisers tell us that their advertisements and marketing activities cannot be blamed for people's behavior. If a mother chooses the bottle, that's because she has already made up her mind to do so, in the same way cigarette companies say their advertising has no impact at all on individuals who've already made up their minds to smoke.

You and I know that's bollocks. If advertising and allied fields had no influence at all on people's attitudes and choices, why would companies spend billions to convince consumers to choose this brand over another, this lifestyle instead of another?

Clearly, marketing works.

Mothers have the right to choose the way they want to feed their babies. Milk manufacturers have the right to sell their brands of infant formula and make billions in profits. But when a baby's right to live and to enjoy good health intersects with these rights, which right should prevail? Our choice tells us what kind of society we are.

Traces of our past

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE OF MANILA'S BEST SECRETS IS A COVEN known as the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines (OCSP) where a small group of like-minded people, all interested in ceramics and the archeological past of the Philippines, gather to talk shop, be they beginners or internationally acknowledged experts like Rita C. Tan.

I have only been a member for a few years because when I was at the height of collecting precolonial Philippine earthenware, I ignored all advice to branch out into the "imported" pieces: The ceramics from China, Japan, Thailand and Cambodia that form tangible proof of trading and civilization in the archipelago before Magellan "discovered" us. Many dealers tried to persuade me to go into "associated" archeological material and I now regret the bias against ceramics because it could have expanded my horizons further.

When my students are sent to the National Museum, I warn them that after the trip they would not want to see another piece of blue-and-white Chinese ceramic for the rest of their lives. Everyone laughs in the classroom and only when they see the halls filled with ceramics in the museum do they realize I was not kidding.

For many of my students, ancient ceramics are things they see in their homes: Big pieces for flower pots and small ones as ashtrays. These things were so plentiful and dirt cheap in the 1960s that everyone had a piece of history lying around in his living room. Material objects used as grave furniture and to accompany our ancestors on their trip to the afterlife were, in the 20th century, used as "accent pieces" for interior decoration. One cannot imagine what history and what obscure knowledge about ceramics is possible if we do not only see these objects but actually notice them.

I was so disinterested in ceramics that I sold two copies of the rare book "Oriental Ceramics" discovered in the Philippines by Leandro and Cecila Locsin. When I got hold of a third and fourth copy in 1999 and actually leafed through them, I realized very late that any study of Philippine prehistory inevitably touched on ceramics. These were so important that the pioneering pre-historian H. Otley Beyer even wrote an article on "The Philippines in the Porcelain Age" (roughly the 9th to the 16th centuries).

The more I read, the more interested I became and when I went into antique shops, I would give ceramics a second look and realize that they were objets d'art and not just traces of our history.

I also wondered at the time why our archeologists were studying shards, why broken pieces were kept behind glass cases when perfect whole pieces could be handled in friendly antique shops. How come a modern museum reproduction of a small blue-and-white bowl or saucer from one of the Philippine shipwrecks cost twice more than the real thing in Ermita shops? After I answered these questions, I started to visit ceramic dealers—both those peddling authentic pieces as well as those selling reproductions or outright fakes. I sat, looked, listened, handled pieces and learned from their experience. Then I started building a library of reference books on the subject and, at one point, there was only one last step in my ceramic education and that was to join the OCSP.

Although ceramics held many clues into Philippine prehistory there was such a wide range of material that I limited myself early on to Ming blue and white (Annamese when these came up), knowing I did not have the budget nor the inclination to buy the entire range: Brown ware, Celadon, white ware, etc. Oriental ceramics is a bottomless pit for the collector and I did not want to fall into it at the expense of collecting Filipiniana. While one has to develop a taste for Philippine pre-colonial earthenware or even plain monochrome ceramics, blue and white pieces are pleasing to everyone, even non-collectors. I was fortunate to have inherited my mother's modest collection of Thai ceramics—enough to fill one whole display cabinet.

The main problem is that one thing leads to another, one interest follows another and what started as a small collection of curiosities branched out into: Ancient fossils to neolithic tools to metal age earthenware (AD 900-1500) all rounding off with porcelain from the 9th to the 16th centuries. Since nobody seemed to be interested in these, while others were busy hunting for Amorsolos and Bencabs and ivory *santos*, I added other "associated materials" to the ceramics and earthenware: Little trinkets of excavated beads, glass bracelets, excavated gold, fossils, etc. Everything was within my student's budget.

It is such a pity that collecting art or antiquities has now become the preserve of people with unlimited funds. That took all the fun out of collecting. The Ermita shops that used to do brisk business are now finding it hard to source new objects from the field. Objects, especially those of very high quality, now come from collectors simplifying their lives and shedding unnecessary baggage.

Had I been born 50 years earlier, what a nice collection I would have had! Dealers are still knowledgeable and friendly, and if a young person just wants to learn about the past without spending a fortune, he can window-shop in antique and thrift shops and learn from the artifacts, the traces of our past.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Terrorism

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT'S FIVE IN THE MORNING, WEDNESDAY, IN TORONTO and I woke up reminding myself it's Wednesday night at home, and I have to finish my INQUIRER column before going off to work at the AIDS conference. I stumbled to the door to get the newspaper, relieved to see that the headline wasn't, for once, about more bombings in Lebanon, or suicide bombers in Iraq. Instead the headline read, "Clinton demands action"—something which I'll tell you more about.

After reading the Canadian newspaper, I went into the Internet for the INQUIRER. The headline was about impeachment hearings, but I skipped the article; we don't need Madam Auring to tell us what the future will be for those hearings.

One breaking news item caught my eye: "SC stops gov't ban on breastmilk substitute advertisements." As I read through, my heart sank. I knew I had to write about another kind of terrorism, different from and yet similar to those bombs in the Middle East.

Good science

I'll get back to that Supreme Court decision, but first let me pick up on the AIDS conference. Monday's sessions were more ceremonial, with a lot of nice things said about hope and solidarity and moving forward.

The Toronto newspaper headlines captured Tuesday's sessions at the AIDS conference, as speakers moved from rhetoric to the harsh realities of the battle against HIV/AIDS. Bill Clinton, in one of the public discussions, had talked about how the world now has the tools, the money and the power to prevent HIV infections, and yet is unable to do so because science has been fighting a losing battle with ideology.

Let me be more specific: On Tuesday, the World Health Organization released a thick report, "Preventing HIV/AIDS in Young People," summarizing a massive review of the evidence from 80 studies conducted in developing countries to evaluate the impact of different programs. The studies show that the following work: Curriculum-based sexuality education in schools, community services for adolescents, explicit but culturally sensitive messages in the mass media, and special outreach facilities for young people most at risk, for example, young sex workers.

Yet the US government has opposed many of these programs, for example, denying funds to projects that give health education, and services to sex workers have been labeled as being pro-prostitution.

Filipino conservatives, linked to US and other international right-wing groups, have also opposed sexuality education in schools. Much of their ire targets the use of condoms, which they say don't work because they have holes through which HIV passes. This is bad or junk science, considering that the scientific evidence has debunked these myths—OK, let me be more direct, these lies.

What has the US government pushed for HIV prevention? Abstinence-only programs, which at least have parents and teachers talking with young people. In the Philippines, all we can offer young people is mumbo-jumbo incantations: "Just don't do it, and let's not even talk about it because you might start doing it."

War on drugs

Another example that came up on Tuesday were the programs for injecting drug users (IDUs), drug dependents who inject the narcotics. They are at great risk of being infected by HIV, and passing it on because of contaminated syringes and needles.

Speakers at the Toronto conference cited study after study showing the effectiveness of what are called harm-reduction approaches. This includes giving clean syringes and needles to injecting drug users, as well as drug rehab with substitution therapy (for example, methadone), and of course intensive counseling and support.

Again, the US government was singled out as being the last developed country that opposes harm reduction, because the conservatives see the syringe and needle programs as promoting drug addiction. The US government's alternative has been its "war on drugs" approach, specifically, increasing penalties for drug use, whether injecting or not, and throwing users into jail, with little rehab.

The evidence is clear that this "war" approach fails miserably, with America's drug problem growing by the day. Yet whatever America does, we imitate. By the Philippine government's own admission, we now have millions of drug dependents who are unable to help themselves to overcome their addiction.

Fortunately, injecting-drug use is not too popular in the Philippines, but we need to worry too about *shabu*. The AIDS conference had several speakers warning about how the use of methamphetamines contributes as well to HIV risk. This happens because users of these drugs tend to have more unprotected sex with multiple partners.

Saying no

What does all this have to do with the Supreme Court decision? The Department of Health issued new rules in May that would strictly regulate the advertising of breast milk substitutes (better known as infant formula or milk powder). Mercury Drug and several formula manufacturers—Abbott Laboratories, Wyeth Philippines, Mead Johnson, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, Bayer Philippines, Novartis and GlaxoSmithKline—sued the DOH and asked the Supreme Court to block the new rules. The Court first upheld the DOH, but it has now reversed itself.

I haven't seen the Supreme Court order yet, but the INQUIRER article quotes the companies' lawyer, Felicitas Aquino-Arroyo: "The DOH order unduly expanded the authority granted it under the Milk Code by prohibiting the free flow of information regarding the nutritional content of infant formula vis-à-vis breast milk and the other traditional milk substitutes, which will only result in preventing much needed knowledge on proper infant feeding."

The parallels are all too similar between HIV prevention and child health. We have the facts, the evidence from science on what's needed for good health, but we allow ideologues to overrule science.

In the case of the infant-formula controversy, we are dealing with drug companies which use "free enterprise" to protect their narrow interests. We allow drug companies to make spurious claims about the benefits of infant formula, all in the name of "free flow of information."

Some of these companies are also producers of antiretrovirals needed to prolong the lives of people with HIV. The multinationals dictate high prices for their medicines and have tried to block generic manufacturers from producing cheaper versions, all in the name of "free enterprise." Not surprisingly, only 10 percent of the 38 million people living with HIV today have access to the antiretrovirals. With our passive acceptance of religious fanatics and "free enterprise" fundamentalists, we're actually welcoming latter-day terrorists into our midst, inviting them to blow themselves up, taking us and future generations with them.

PRC's 'disservice'

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

THE CONTROVERSY RECENTLY HOUNDing the Professional Regulation Commission as a result of the leakage in the nursing board exams is not totally unexpected. PRC's service—or shall we call it "disservice"—affects not only nursing but also all the professions that it regulates.

Like some "high-tech" government agencies, the PRC has put up its own website. But in my opinion, the service or information you find there is incomplete. By way of suggestion, the PRC can post in its website the rosters of licensed professionals—by discipline—in professions under its jurisdiction.

The information will be a big help to prospective employers as well as to individual Filipino professionals who are looking for jobs. It may not solve the entire problem of the PRC, but at least we, taxpayers, will see that the idea of a PRC is in fact working and "professionals" are not made on the sidewalks of Recto Avenue or don't get a license because of "leakages."

The leakage in the nursing board exams yet again raises the question: Are Filipinos big-time cheats? Hello, Garci?

—DINDO CASTRODES,
dndcastrodes@yahoo.com

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Motion to use MPC's election counting machines a personal initiative

THE INQUIRER'S EDITORIAL, TITLED "Sneaky," hinted that I filed my motion with the Supreme Court—to allow the use of 1,991 mothballed automated counting machines (ACMs)—"with obvious encouragement from Malacañang."

I vehemently deny this baseless and speculative intimation. The motion is absolutely unrelated to my being the election lawyer of President Macapagal-Arroyo. I filed my motion purely on my own personal initiative. I am my own man. I have no need of any third party to encourage me to act one way or the other, particularly on matters within my competence.

My motion is very simple: test these machines first; if they pass the test, use them in the 2007 elections—but without prejudice to the possible criminal prosecution of public officials and private individuals involved in the allegedly anomalous contract. For the question of the anomalous acquisition of these ACMs is an entirely different matter from their efficiency and accuracy.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court did not say that the Court "was opposed to the use of the ACMs as a general proposition," as clarified in its June 15, 2005 resolution denying the Comelec's motion to use the machines in the 2005 ARMM elections. The Court has not yet declared any public official or private person guilty beyond reasonable doubt of any criminal act. Neither has it directed the Mega Pacific Consortium (MPC) to return to the Comelec any and all monies paid to it by the latter. If it were so, the accused should now be in jail and the remedy of the government would be just to file a motion for execution against the MPC.

But how long will these cases last or be resolved? How sure are we that the Ombudsman will find probable cause against these Comelec officials or private individuals when, as lamented by Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, the complainants never appeared in about seven hearings he had conducted? How sure are we that the government can recover the P1 billion paid to the MPC?

It is in the light of this uncertainty and the repeated claims and assurances by the Department of Science and Technology that these machines are 100-percent accurate and reliable, that I filed my motion. For while these cases are pending, the machines, if not used, will remain idle and rot. Ironically, the Comelec spends P300,000 in monthly storage fees for these machines. As a taxpayer and a concerned citizen, I have the right to demand that such machines be used in the 2007 elections.

As to the query: "So what is Macalintal trying to do?" May I say that it is the overriding public interest, nothing else, that is the entire rationale behind my motion—the same public interest involved in the national effort (which includes that of the INQUIRER's) to ensure a clean and honest count of the ballots in our elections.

—ROMULO B. MACALINTAL,
election lawyer,
13 Cagayan Valley St.,
Philamlife Village,
Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Also preserve Sibul Spring

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK RINA JIMENEZ-David for her articles on Biak na Bato. I just hope that the response of our provincial governor is not yet too late. I was born and grew up in San Miguel, Bulacan and I witnessed the degradation of our natural resources (not only in Biak na Bato but also in nearby barangays, e.g., Sibul) due to quarrying and illegal logging.

I hope that through David's article, our provincial and national governments will focus on preserving not only Biak na Bato but also Sibul Spring.

May I call the attention of the Department of Tourism to consider developing this historical site as a tourist destination.

—CLAIRE ANGEL,
angelclaire20032003@yahoo.com

Anti-kleptocracy policy of US

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

THE ARREST OF FUGITIVE FORMER AGRIculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante in the United States for allegedly entering that country with an expired visa could open another can of worms. In his Aug. 14 column on INQ7.net, William Esposo theorizes that the United States may use Bolante as a pawn on the geopolitical chessboard, after noting that many US officials have reacted to President Macapagal-Arroyo's cozying up to the fast-emerging world power that is China.

The rivalry between the United States and China for the hearts and minds of Asian peoples did not die with communism. The Americans remember only so well how Ferdinand Marcos used the China card effectively in the political poker game as he tried to exact more favors from his ally across the Pacific. Now another emerging dictator is using the same card to exact favors from her friend George W. Bush, who was extremely disappointed with her after her treacherous turnaround during the Angelo de la Cruz affair.

If Bolante entered the United States with an expired visa, why was he allowed to board the plane in the first place? Communications might have been relayed and checks done, after which unseen hands might have pulled the strings to let Bolante enter the trap. Now he is in the cage.

A few days ago, President Bush announced the "escalation of the war on kleptocracy." He denounced "high-level corruption by senior officials, which is robbing the people of many poor nations of their future." Of course, he did not mention the Philippines by name. But he is aware that corruption is well entrenched and widespread in our country, and that a big part of the money that is lost comes from Uncle Sam's treasury. A big part of the money in the fertilizer fund scandal, in which Bolante figured prominently, reportedly came from US largesse.

Bolante's incarceration in the United States and Bush's announcements may not be purely coincidental. They may be part and parcel of a grand plan by the United States to get even with Ms Arroyo for her unforgivable offense of turning her back on her benefactor to suit her own selfish interests. In world politics, even in a case that involved a miniscule force of 51 soldiers, betrayal by a friend has great repercussions.

If Bush wants to polish his image as a friend of the Philippines, he must dissociate himself from Ms Arroyo, who is despised by more than two-thirds of Filipinos. And he must make good his promise to eradicate kleptocracy in a poor nation like ours.—**Ramon A. Mayuga, Germany (via e-mail)**

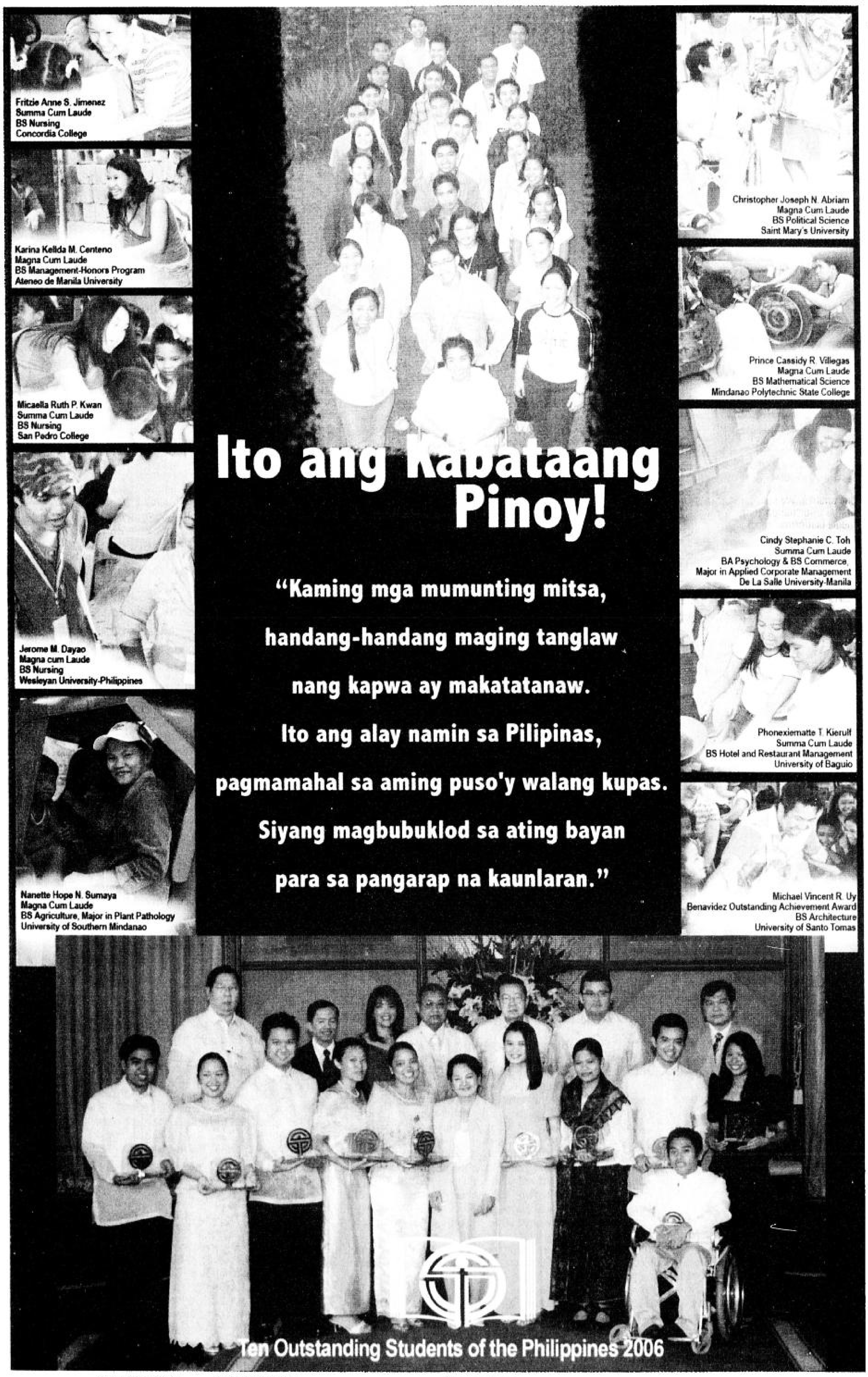
* * *

When I read the articles about the pedicab and taxi drivers who, without hesitation, returned to the rightful owners wads of cash found in their cabs, I felt overjoyed and began rethinking my views about the country I left behind. For a very long time, I always had this notion that the Philippines had gone to the dogs. But there are still a few good men left in our country.

In the Philippines, I worked in government for 11 years and saw the horrendous corruption from the very top, down to the smallest government unit.

It is time for the urban poor to show our politicians how to change and to lose selfishness.

Mabuhay and God bless the two urban poor heroes. May your tribe increase!—**Danny Cimagala, UK (via e-mail)**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Ito ang Kabataang Pinoy!
"Kaming mga mumunting mitsa,
handang-handang maging tanglaw
nang kapwa ay makatatanaw.
Ito ang alay namin sa Pilipinas,
pagmamahal sa aming puso'y walang kupas.
Siyang magbubuklod sa ating bayan
para sa pangarap na kaunlaran."
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'Great cedula rush' in Nueva Ecija

By Anselmo Roque, *Inquirer Central Luzon*
and Melvin Gascon, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

PALAYAN CITY—RESIDENTS OF THE TOWNS AND CITIES IN THE southern part of Nueva Ecija have joined the scramble to get their cedula (community tax certificate or CTC) as word spread around that the soldiers are now poised to visit their places.

They described the event as the "great cedula rush" never before experienced in the province.

Edilberto Pancho, provincial treasurer, said he asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Manila for additional 4,000 pads of the blank CTR form.

This was done, he said, to meet the demand in the third and 4th districts of the province now swept by the rush.

Each pad of the CTR contains 50 sheets.

Pancho said the northern part of the province seemed to have already satisfied the frenzied requests for issuance of cedula.

The demand for cedula in the cities, he said, is taken care of by their city treasurers who are not under his supervision, he said.

It was in San Jose City that the rush to get cedula was noted last week. Nearby towns and city followed suit.

Some cedula seekers said they were afraid to be interrogated lengthily by soldiers in case they could not present the cedula.

None so far has come forward or has been identified as victims of cedula-eating or slapping because of failure to present a cedula.

Noting the difficulties of cedula seekers, Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III asked Pancho to direct the municipal treasurers to distribute to barangay captains the blank CTR forms so that interested parties can get them right in their barangay halls.

Joson said he received reports that many residents had to line up for hours to get the cedula.

The minimum pay for a cedula is P5 and additional P1 for every thousand-peso income.

In Nueva Vizcaya, the terror caused by the government's anti-insurgency campaign has swept through the southern towns of the province, sending residents of remote villagers scrambling to get the CTC.

Aritao Mayor Ruben Sayo said a daily average of 1,000 residents, many of them high school students, have been trooping to the town hall of Aritao and in nearby Santa Fe town since last week to get their cedula.

"The people are afraid because of the reports (of alleged abuses by the military). Others just want to play safe, because many of them go to Nueva Ecija regularly to work as farm laborers, and are aware about what the Army has been doing there," he said.

Aritao and Santa Fe share borders with Carranglan town in Nueva Ecija, where the military has stepped up its anti-insurgency campaign.

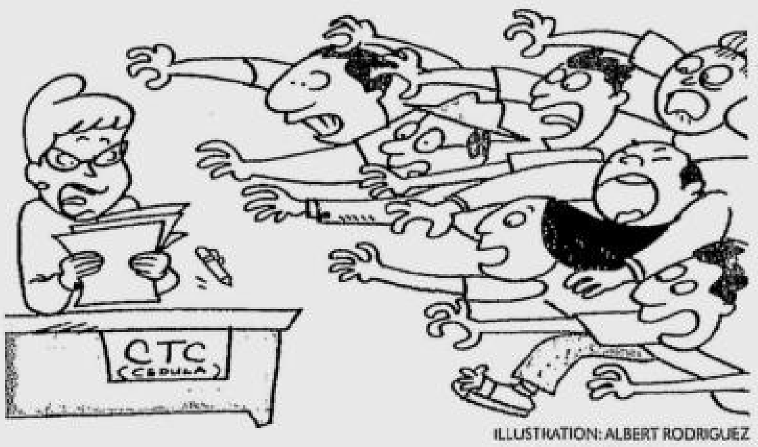

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Mayon eruption hard to predict, Phivolcs says

LEGAZPI CITY—VOLCANOLOGISTS ARE hard put predicting the exact date of a major eruption of Mayon volcano as 44,000 people linger in temporary shelters.

"The signs of an imminent hazardous eruption are still there but we are having a hard time establishing a pattern due to the volcano's irregular behavior," said Raymond Maximo, one of the science research specialists from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs)-Manila now keeping close watch on Mayon's unrest.

MAYON belches smoke and keeps volcanologists guessing on when it would erupt with a bang.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Maximo cited the sudden calming-down after a series of ash explosions and the rise and fall of the sulfur dioxide [SO_2] emission rate.

There was a lull in volcanic activity last Tuesday with no ash explosions recorded and the sulfur dioxide emission rate measured at only 2,918 tons daily, the lowest since the alert level four was hoisted last Aug. 7.

On Wednesday, however, Mayon's restiveness again intensified after five ash explosions and a "very high" SO_2 emission rate of 8,086 tons daily were recorded in the past 24 hours, Phivolcs said yesterday.

It also warned of pyroclastic flows that may be generated by a sudden collapse of hot lava deposits in the middle slopes.

Maximo said the accumulation of lava deposits was caused by the big volume of lava that flowed down, now measured at 6.7 km from the crater or barely 1.3 km from the extended 8-km danger zone and closest to the village of Buyuan in this city.

He added that the volcano had already generated 32 million cubic meters of hot lava during its period of unrest, which has devastated coconut plantations and vegetation within the 6-km permanent danger zone.

In a report of the Office of Civil Defense-Bicol yesterday noon, there were 44,491 persons or 9,597 families housed in 29 evacuation centers.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development said the total financial assistance extended to the villagers was P5.5 million, almost half of which came from nongovernment organizations and other government agencies other than the DSWD and the local government units.

Five municipalities and three cities stand in the path of an eruption but Sto. Domingo and Daraga towns and this city, which have a total of 16 villages, are at highest risk.

Cedric Daep, executive officer of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said the long-term plan of the PDCC to permanently relocate villagers, especially those near river channels, is still an ongoing effort of the provincial government. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Abaya sees oust bid; brute force assailed

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The head of the Bases Conversion Development Authority said the Poro Point controversy is being used to oust him just as a senator demanded a stop to the use of brute force in the port, saying it was discouraging foreign investors.

"The issue keeps on coming out in the papers. I suspect that people with different motives are using the Poro Point as an issue against me," BCDA president Narciso Abaya told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, in a press statement, said the President "expressed exasperation that the public officials involved in the... controversy all tried to profuse innocence of the military-style takeover.".

"This scandal should be halted in its tracks," said Santiago. "There are foreign investors in the area and the use of brute force is bad news in the international business community."

BCDA sources said Abaya, former Armed Forces chief of staff, was the one who orchestrated the Aug. 5 takeover of the seaport by the Philippine Ports Authority from the operator, the Poro Point Industrial Corp., a joint venture of the BCDA and the Bulk Handlers Inc.

The move, sources said, was a way to get around a lingering problem: How to ease out the PPIC, end its alleged grossly disadvantageous 25-year contract.

Where his three predecessors at the BCDA failed, Abaya's mission was purportedly to hand over the port to President Macapagal-Arroyo's staunch ally, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Singson repeatedly denied involvement in the controversy.

According to Abaya, the issue has been "muddled" and the facts "twisted."

Santiago, in her statement, said the takeover of the port on the basis of its lack of an environment compliance certificate was suspicious.

"DENR already issued an ECC to the port operator all of seven years ago," said Santiago. "When the government sleeps on this right for seven years, it loses this right."

She said that the takeover "based on the alleged lack of an ECC was conducted without due process."

She described the ECC requirement as "superfluous and redundant" because the ECC had been issued.

Abaya said he did not order the PPA to do a takeover.

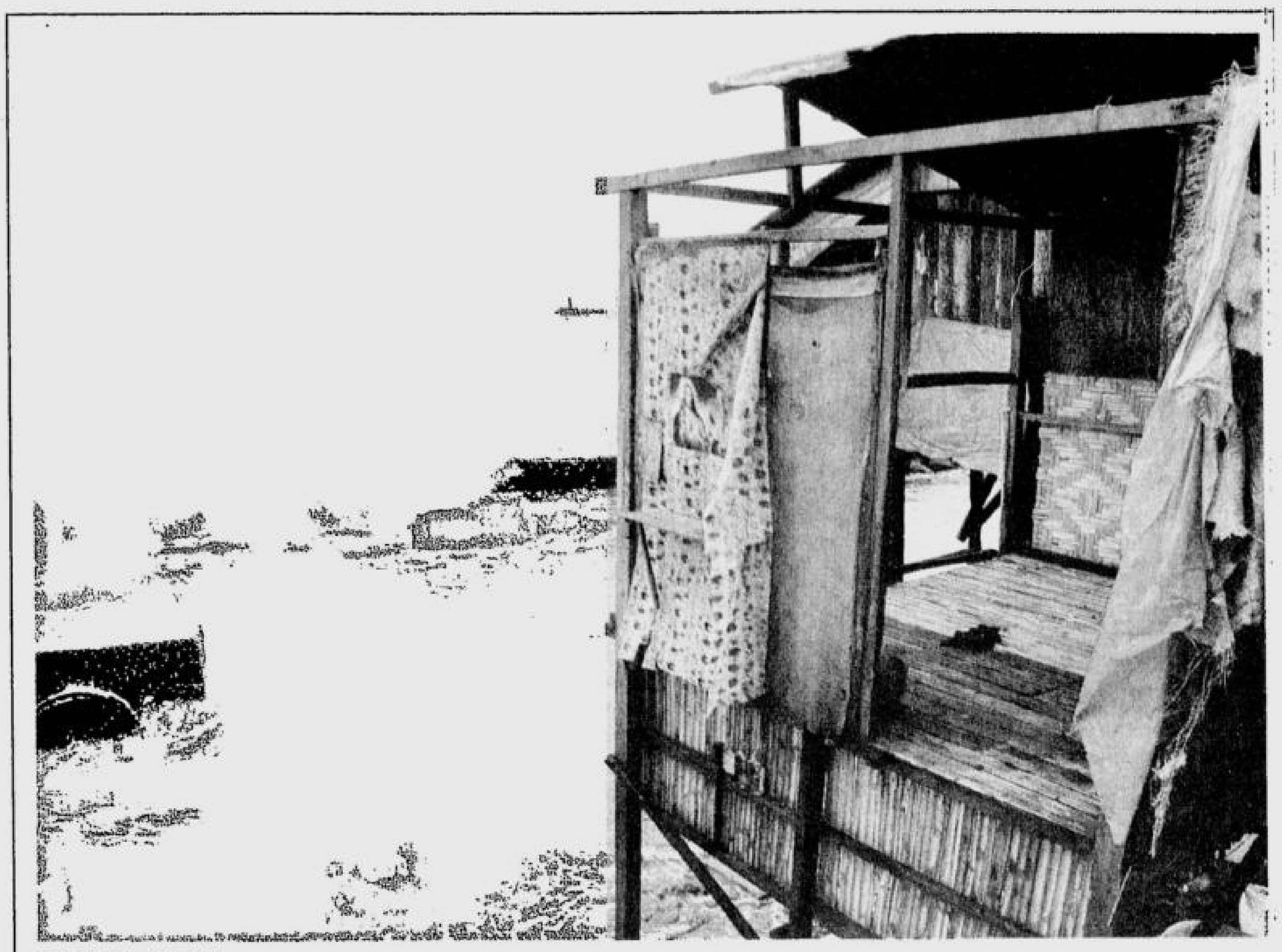
"I asked it to ensure that no disruptions would happen in the port's operations. Until this time, I still maintained that PPIC's contract remains valid," he said in reaction to a former BCDA official's view that Abaya had made a "turnaround."

As to the Jan. 24, 2006 meeting of the Cabinet and the National Economic and Development Authority in Malacañang, Abaya said that while the INQUIRER sources furnished the slides of his supposed presentation, these were not shown to the President or the other officials.

"No presentation was made," he insisted because the lawyer, whom he identified as Arnel Casanova, the counsel of the BCDA, was absent.

Reacting to reports that the BCDA board of directors disagreed with his action, he said: "They should even commend me."

The CDO, he said, "remains in effect until the PPIC is able to secure an ECC."



BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

DANGER ZONE
A shanty in Patalan Daliao in Toril, Davao City survives the onslaught of strong waves brought by bad weather. Waves destroyed hundreds of homes in shoreline villages in the Visayas while landslides wrought havoc in some parts of Mindanao.

E. Samar execs seek peace talks with rebs

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The Peace and Order Council of Eastern Samar passed on Monday a resolution urging communist guerrillas based in the province to come to the negotiating table with the hope of ending hostilities.

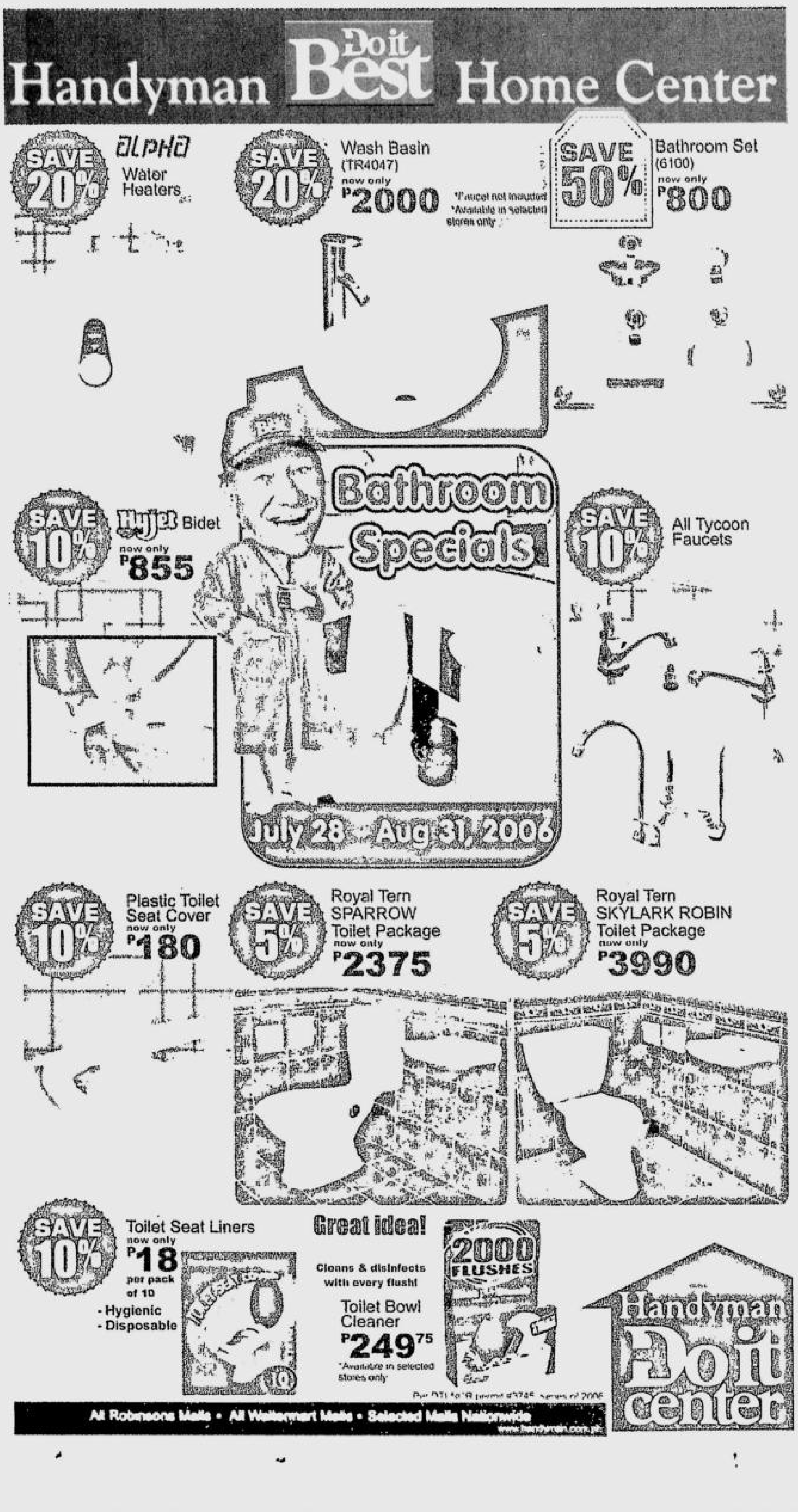
Gov. Ben Evardone, who chairs the council, said that it was about time that peace be given a chance to reign in the province, which has witnessed many conflicts between the government forces and members of the communist armed group.

"I just hope that the officials and members of the CPP-NDF-NPA based in the province will respond positively to this peace agreement that the provincial peace and order council has proposed through a resolution," Evardone, reached on his mobile phone, told the INQUIRER.

However, the NDF, through its Eastern Visayas information officer Santiago Salas, immediately dubbed the proposal as a "cheap publicity gimmick" by Evardone.

"The peace process is already being carried out at the national level by the NDF and the Philippine Government. So what is the sense of Governor Evardone's politicking except to trivialize the peace question into a cheap publicity gimmick?" Salas said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

He added: "Evardone is also hypocritical in talking of peace while holding hands with the military, the leading human rights violators in the region. He never held the military to account for the killings and other violent attacks committed on militant activists and civilians in Eastern Samar."



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ROUNDUP

3 village heads killed

CABANATUAN CITY—Three village chiefs were killed while three others were wounded last week when a son of a village official shot them with a Carbine rifle during a wake in Talavera, Nueva Ecija. The suspect, Benny Martin, was also shot and killed by a group of men who chased him. Reports identified the slain victims as Barangay Chairs Alberto Espino of Bagong Sikat, Teofilo Ramos of Bugtong na Buli, and Rafael Castillo of Valle, all of Talavera. Wounded were Barangay Chairs Danilo Damacio of Kaputikan, Marlon Mamuyac of Kabubulaunan, and Exequel Villareal of Tabacao. The officials were attending the wake of the suspect's father Agrifino Martin, village chief of San Ricardo who was shot dead two weeks ago.

Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon

Bus catches fire

CALAMBA CITY—A Manila-bound bus from Bicol caught fire along the Maharlika Highway in San Pablo City early Thursday morning, police said. Supt. Sonny Ricablanca, San Pablo police chief, said the fire engulfed the Isarog Bus Lines (NYW-962) while it was traversing the Maharlika Highway in Barangay San Antonio I at around 3 a.m. The bus, he said, left Legazpi City and was bound for Cubao with 40 passengers, who all escaped the fire unhurt. All the baggage and even the TV set of the bus were also saved, he added. "Our initial investigation showed that the fire was caused by faulty electrical wiring," Ricablanca told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview. A few minutes before the fire started, driver Daniel Tesorio noticed smoke coming from the engine of the bus. Ricablanca said Tesorio quickly maneuvered the bus to the roadside and tried but failed to put out the fire using a fire extinguisher.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

1 dead in gun attack

COTABATO CITY—A man was killed and two others were wounded in a gun attack here on Tuesday. Senior Insp. Sansom Obatay, city police spokesperson, said a suspect, identified as Mohammad Saabedra, of Datu Odin Sinsuat town, was arrested after he allegedly gunned down Salabi Antil and wounded his son, Naren Kendong, near the public market at around 5 p.m. Police said the victims were waiting for a ride home when they were shot. The gunman ran toward the plaza and shot and wounded a motorist. In nearby Sultan Kudarat town, two motorcycle-riding men shot and wounded the driver of an L-300 van, identified as Benjamine Abas, and another person on Tuesday.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Media literacy seminar

A NEWLY formed group of media practitioners in the Diocese of San Pablo will hold a "Media Awareness and Literacy Seminar" for 75 priests and lay persons on Aug. 19 at the Bishop's Residence Social Hall in San Pablo City, Laguna. The seminar aims to enlighten participants and parishioners of the usefulness and evils of media and to promote Christian values through the different means of communication. Attending are those involved or want to be involved in media apostolate (news writing, radio, TV, computer, movie and cyberspace). Speakers are veteran practitioners in mainstream media.

Islamic priest drowns

COTABATO CITY—An Islamic priest drowned in a swollen river in Barangay Malagapas here last week. An action officer of the City Disaster Coordinating Council said the victim, Imam Zacaria Ali, 60, a native of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, ran a mosque in a resettlement area in the village. "His death could have been due to cardiac arrest," Sam Mundas said. Ali knew how to swim, his relatives claimed, and the strong current might have swept him away. Mundas said the victim had just finished his early morning *sambayan* (prayer) and religious ritual at the mosque on Aug. 11 and immediately proceeded for a river bath nearby.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Guns found in NPA camp

LUCENA CITY—Army soldiers on patrol recovered firearms and materials from an abandoned mountain camp of New People's Army rebels in Puerto Galera, the military said last week. Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno, spokesperson of the Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, said the unit, led by 2nd Lt. Agustin Matib of the 68th Infantry Battalion, found two M-16 rifles, explosive materials, maps of Puerto Galera, NPA "extortion letters" and documents in Sitio Cave in Barangay Baletero.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Lottery test OKd

BACOLOD CITY—The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has approved the application of Super Lucky Beagler Inc. to conduct Small Town Lottery test runs in Negros Occidental. In a resolution, dated July 19 and signed by PCSO Chair Sergio Valencia, general manager Rosario Uriarte, and directors Teresita Gonzalez and Victory Domingo, the test runs will be allowed subject to the submission of documents required by the board. Silay Councilor Ignacio Salmingo said he had opposed a proposed resolution in the city board acknowledging receipt of the PCSO resolution, saying it was directed to the province.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

FLIGHT NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Children play with a bicycle, one of the few possessions brought by evacuees from communities near Mayon, at an evacuation center in Legazpi City.

HUNGER IN ILOILO

10,000 farmers plead for rice

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—AT LEAST 10,000 FARMERS DEpendent on rain-fed farms are asking for rice rations to tide them over until the next harvest season.

"Even just five gantas (about 2.5 kg). It's enough to feed our families with rice gruel," said Sonny Talibu, a farmer-leader from Igbaras town, in a dialogue with Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas on Tuesday.

Bad harvest, a lingering drought and high prices of farm chemicals placed the farmers in penury this year, said Nilo Arado, chair of Pamanggas, a federation of farmers' associations in Panay and Guimaras.

He said although it was normal for farmers to be hard up from June to August, which are the traditional lean months, this year proved to be the worst because many are subsisting on root crops and leafy vegetables. Rice is a luxury reserved for children who bring lunch to school.

Pamanggas asked the governor to consider hunger as a calamity.

But Tupas said that a similar move last year failed to get the support of town mayors. Many mayors were not convinced that hunger was widespread to warrant relief operations.

Tupas instead proposed the release of funds to farmers to buy and sell rice to their members with a subsidized price of P18 per kg instead of the P20 to P25 a kg prevailing in the market.

"The administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is embroiled in a fertilizer scam which translates to P10 million for Iloilo. It's a shame," said Arado.

Aside from hunger, some upland farmers were also in fear because their communities were tagged "rebel-infested."

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COA probes overprice at Batangas hospital

BATANGAS CITY—THE COMMISSION on Audit (COA) has put officials of the Batangas Regional Hospital (BRH) under investigation after it unearthed an alleged anomalous purchase of more than P250,000 worth of dental equipment by the government-owned hospital, the INQUIRER learned.

In a report dated July 25, 2006, Minerva Hernandez, the BRH in-house COA auditor, questioned the decision of the hospital officials to purchase the dental equipment last month which the commission found to be disadvantageous to the government.

Hernandez asked Dr. Eleanor Gamo, BRH head, and the members of the bids and awards committee of the hospital, to explain the purchased dental apparatus from Bo-Med Trading which was 69 percent more expensive than what the hospital should have bought.

"Please direct the concerned persons to settle immediately the above disallowance. Failure to do so shall compel this office to take the necessary steps to enforce settlement thereof," Hernandez said in a letter to Gamo.

In the report, Hernandez said she found that the BRH officials allowed the purchase of 11 units of dental equipment for P250,026 when they could have bought these from a dental supply store for only P71,300.

Gamo denied any wrongdoing. "We have nothing to hide. That contract underwent a bidding process," Gamo told the INQUIRER. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Dr. James Owen Borja Mirandilla
8th Place

Dr. Mynn Michelle Dy Varela
8th Place

Dr. Mina del Rosario de Guzman
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Other successful board passers are: Dr. Arvin Agapito, Dr. Anacleto Capio, Dr. Jennifer Chang, Dr. Alfred De Quiros, Dr. Christabel Legaspi, Dr. Silverio Nano, Dr. Kristine Relatores, Dr. Kris Emmanuel Esguerra, Dr. Reynaldo Espejo Jr. Dr. Joseph Genesera Dr. Leni Lacsarom, Dr. Marvin Sarez, Dr. Dundi Semera, Dr. Joel Tolentino and Dr. Dr. Vanessa Villanueva

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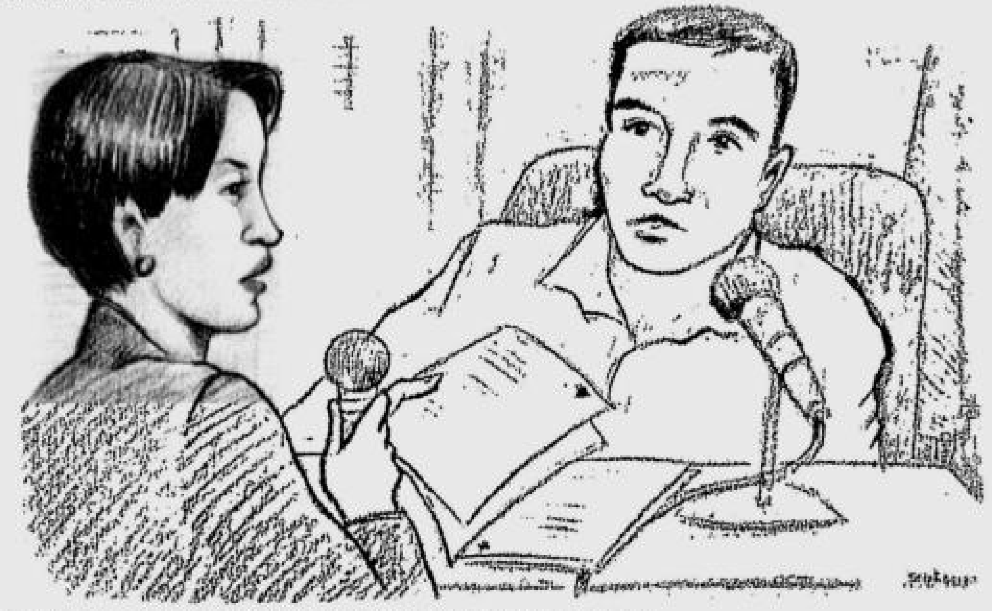
Subic rape trial: Prosecution rests after 23 witnesses



DNA analyst Sr. Insp. Edmar de la Torre on the witness stand

By Volt Contreras

AFTER 11 WEEKS AND 23 WITNESSES, THE prosecution in the Subic rape trial rested its case yesterday on testimony that the male DNA found on the panties of the Filipino complainant belonged to the principal accused, US Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

The lawyers for Smith and the three other American Marines charged along with him — Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier and Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis — will begin presenting evidence in their defense on Sept. 11.

In their closing round, lawyers for the alleged victim "Nicole" presented the findings of the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory that the male DNA found on her underwear "matched" the DNA obtained from Smith's blood sample.

Senior Insp. Edmar de la Torre, a DNA analyst, told the Makati City Regional Trial Court that the tests he conducted were "99.99 percent accurate."

"The male DNA is that of Daniel Smith," De la Torre said on the witness stand.

Earlier, PNP crime lab findings presented in court established that both male and female DNA were found on the panties Nicole was wearing on the night she was allegedly raped, and that the female DNA was hers.

On July 26, Smith submitted to a court order to have a blood sample taken for DNA comparison. De la Torre said he was the analyst who examined the sample.

Smith had admitted long before the trial began that he had sex with Nicole, but that it was consensual.

Nicole, a 22-year-old college graduate from Zamboanga City, claimed she was raped by Smith in the back seat of a moving van while his three colleagues cheered him on.

The alleged assault took place on the night of Nov. 1, 2006, at the Subic Bay Freeport after Smith and the others had taken part in military exercises with Philippine troops; Nicole and her two sisters were at the former US naval base on vacation.

Nicole said she only met Smith casually at a popular Subic nightspot, the Neptune Club, prior to the alleged rape.

During her turn on the stand, Nicole said she recalled feeling Smith lying on top of her, and being kissed and touched on the breast by the Marine. She could offer no clearer account of the rape, however, claiming the alcoholic drinks she had taken at the bar had made her dizzy.

Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon gave the prosecution seven days to file their formal offer of evidence.

He also gave the defense lawyers seven days to submit their comments on the offer, after which the judge would rule on which evidence could be admitted in court.

Man carrying 6,000 detonators nabbed on ferry

THE MILITARY SAID ON THURSDAY IT HAD arrested a man suspected of trying to smuggle 6,000 detonators out of the island of Jolo where troops are pursuing a group of rebels linked to the al-Qaida international terror network.

"It is highly possible the explosives [were to] be used by the terrorists in their bombing attacks," Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, the military commander on Jolo, told reporters.

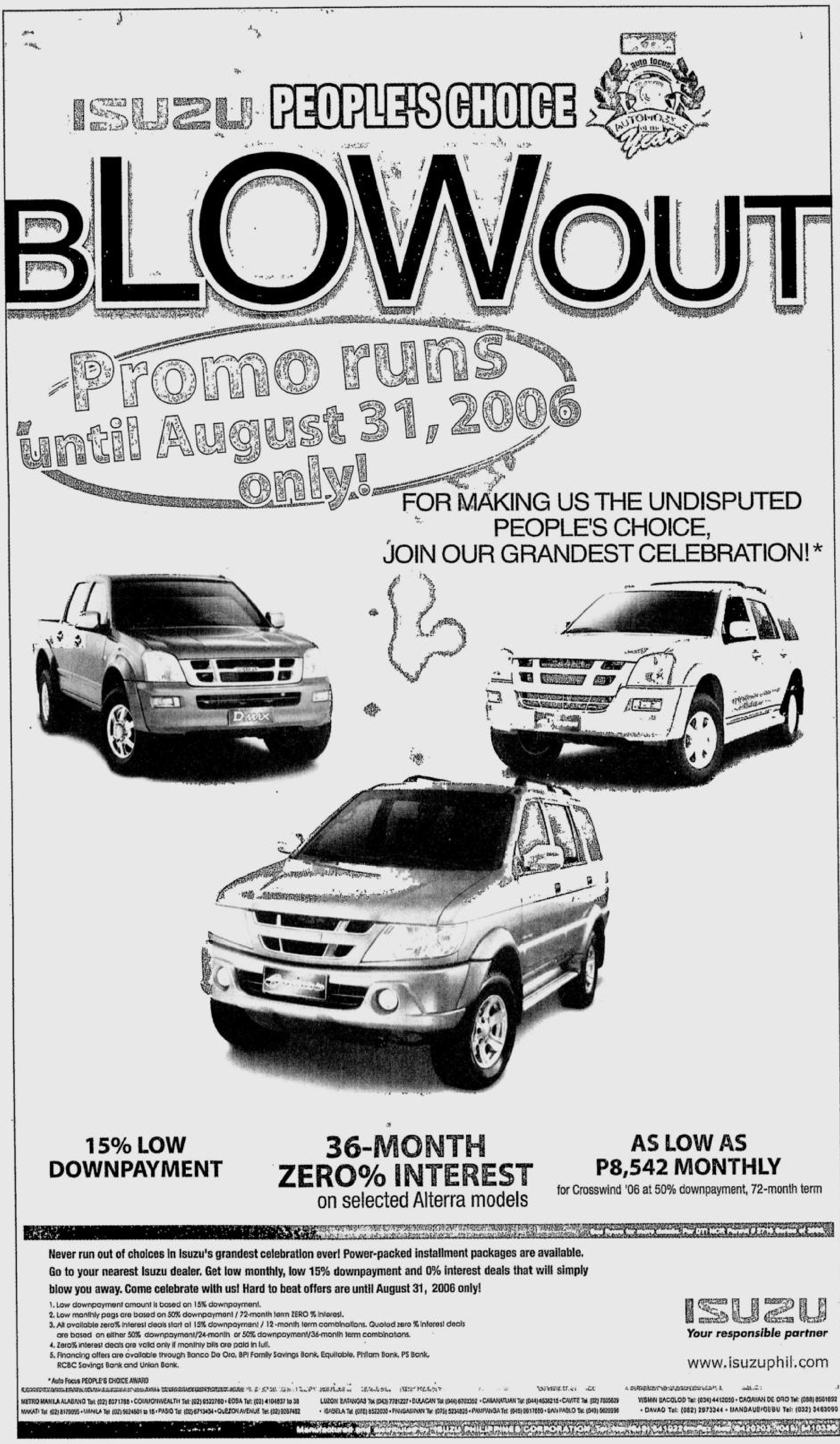
Aleo said the suspect and an unidentified female companion had carried backpacks onto a passenger ferry that was bound for the nearby island of Tawi-Tawi, adding that each bag held boxes of Indian-made detonators. The woman eluded arrest.

The detonators were found when a soldier, suspicious of the contents of the suspect's backpack, searched it and then alerted his colleagues to comb the ferry, Aleo said.

Last week, government officials said the military offensive on Jolo against rebels from the Abu Sayyaf terror group may have foiled a plan to launch bombings in the capital Manila.

Hundreds of troops, backed by US intelligence, have been searching the hilly jungles near Indanan town for Abu Sayyaf members believed to be hiding with two key suspects in the 2002 bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali.

Reuters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Cops vow to clean up shopping haven

Intensified drive aimed at protecting bargain hunters, investors

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT HAS launched an intensified campaign to clean up and ensure the safety of people going to Divisoria which it dubbed "the most visited shopping destination in Metro Manila."

"Apart from the MPD program to safeguard thousands of shoppers and bargain hunters in Divisoria, residents and tenants of its numerous shops and establishments also want to continue the cleanliness drive in the area," acting MPD director Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa said in a statement.

He added that the campaign—with the theme "Safe Ka sa Malinis na Divisoria"—is aimed at keeping the stores and streets in the area safe and clean to lure more shoppers and investors to the shopping district.

"The members of Manila's Out-of-School Youth Serving Toward Economic Recovery (Oyster) will be deployed on the streets of Divisoria to maintain cleanliness and improve the garbage segregation and collection drive in the area," Abarzosa said.

Police operatives have also been tasked to conduct clearing operations against illegal vendors occupying sidewalks, according to the MPD official. "As part of our intensified campaign against all illegal syndicates and petty criminals, we will also be fielding additional policemen to the area," Abarzosa said.

Police assistance and information centers have already been set up in Divisoria where shoppers can file their complaints, he added.

SENIOR Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, acting chief of the Manila Police District, leads the cleanup of streets in Divisoria, part of the police campaign to make the area clean and safe for shoppers. ERIK ARAZAS

Fire hits warehouse in Pasig; P3M lost

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MORE THAN P3 MILLION worth of soap and shampoo intended as promotional items were razed after a 50-minute fire hit a warehouse in Pasig City Wednesday evening.

F01 Salvador Norberte told the INQUIRER that the fire started at 8:28 p.m. inside the promo warehouse of Unilever Philippines owned by Alaska Trading at the corner of C5 Road and Ortigas Extension in Barangay Ugong.

No one was hurt in the incident.

Firefighters had to cut the locks of the building since no one was inside the warehouse, Norberte said.

The 1,000 sq m Unilever building was the only structure damaged in the compound that housed other warehouses.

Norberte said they were still trying to find the cause of the fire but added that it could have been electricity-related.

Police were told that there were several electric fans inside the warehouse, leading them to suspect that the fire could have been triggered by one of the fans.

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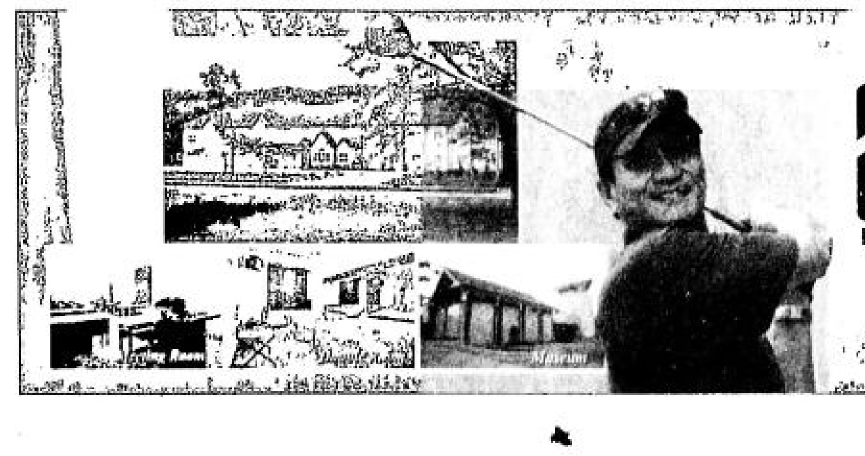

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City official shot dead by 2 men in Marikina ambush

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A LOCAL OFFICIAL IN MARIKINA City was shot to death by two men in front of his house yesterday morning.

Nicasio Cruz, 38, the head of the Marikina City Settlement Office, sustained at least 10 gunshot wounds, most of them on his chest, PO3 Edwin Arce said.

Witnesses told the police that Cruz was approached by two men as he was getting into his jeepney.

The two suddenly took out their guns and shot the victim, and continued to fire even after he fell to the ground. Two other men served as lookout, witnesses added.

Police said Cruz had been getting death threats since last year when he was still head of Marikina's Tricycle Regulatory Board, now known as the City Transportation Management and Development Office.

Cruz had even reported the death threats to the police.

The city public information office said the official also served in the architectural division of the Marikina City Development Office for a few months before his transfer to the Settlement Office a few months ago.

The assassination appeared to have been carefully planned.

Police said Cruz left his house on Kapitan Moy Street in Barangay Sta. Elena at 8:30 a.m.

The suspects, meanwhile, apparently waited for him at a store in front of his house.

Police recovered at least seven empty shells from a cal. .45 handgun at the crime scene.

Based on the description given by a witness, police managed to come up with a sketch of one of the two who acted as lookout.

The suspect was described as dark-skinned, between 33-35 years old, about 5'3" tall, wearing a green sleeveless shirt and a pair of cream-colored shorts.

PNU prexy, BOR seek dismissal of court case

By Tina G. Santos

THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD of Regents of the Philippine Normal University have asked a Manila court to dismiss the case filed against them by some members of the faculty.

PNU president Lutgardo Barbo and members of the BOR which appointed him to the post in June were named as respondents in a case filed last month by several professors—some of whom had resigned to protest his appointment. In the case filed in the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 6, the petitioners asked the judge to stop Barbo from assuming the presidency of the university, citing, among other reasons, his lack of credentials that would qualify him for the post.

However, Barbo and the BOR whose members include Sen. Juan Flavier, Rep. Cynthia Villar and former Education Secretary Nilo Rosas, asked the court to dismiss the case for lack of jurisdiction.

The respondents claimed that the complaint should have been elevated to the Civil Service Commission since PNU is a state-run university. The respondents also stressed that they did not commit grave abuse of discretion since they only approved the search committee's recommendation.

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Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

More aid pours in for returning OFWs in Makati

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MORE AID IS IN STORE FOR 26 RETURNING residents of Makati City who are back in the country to avoid being caught in the war in Lebanon.

Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday said they would offer the repatriated overseas Filipino workers training on computer, automotive and electronics repair, welding, cell phone repair, cosmetology, food processing and dressmaking.

Binay also took a swipe at the government's "super maid" training program which aims to teach more skills to OFWs who want to work as domestic helpers.

"The national government's so-called super maid program needs serious rethinking. We are certain that given a choice, our countrymen would not want to work as domestic helpers abroad," the mayor said in a statement.

The city's 26 OFWs will be trained by the the Makati Training, Placement and Livelihood Consortia which provides skills training for residents and then matches the skills of its graduates with the needs of companies in the city. The local government would also provide them with medical insurance and hospitalization benefits through the Makati Yellow Card Plus health program.

Officials of the city's Social Welfare Department will also meet the OFWs next week for an evaluation of their education level and skills. Their economic situation will likewise be assessed to determine other forms of assistance that can be extended to them by the local government.

Another Erap son to the Senate?

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SAN JUAN MAYOR JV EJERCITO, SON OF jailed former President Joseph Estrada, is considering running for senator next year.

Ejercito, who is on his second term as mayor, said he would like to run for reelection, but he could still change his mind.

"I can reconsider my decision if the opposition would like me to run and if there would be an overwhelming clamor from the public for me to run," he told the INQUIRER.

Should he make it, he would become the third member of the Estrada family in the Senate since the former leader was ousted in 2001.

It is not yet clear whether or not Estrada's wife, more popularly known as Sen. Loi, would seek reelection when her term ends next year. Their son Jinggoy Estrada was elected senator in 2004.

The 36-year-old Ejercito is Estrada's son with former actress Guia Gomez.

A statement distributed to reporters the other night during a dinner organized by Ejercito referred to a recent survey which listed his name as among the top 12 candidates for senator.

The same statement also claimed that the former president, who is detained on plunder charges, was grooming Ejercito to replace his wife Loi who will complete her six-year term as senator next year.

METROBRIEFS

Killed over a house

A SEAMAN was stabbed dead in his home in Pandacan, Manila the other night allegedly by two laborers sent by his mother's former live-in partner. Sylvan Duenas, 32, of 1901-K Interior II, Zamora, Pandacan, died two hours after he was brought to the Philippine General Hospital, Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling Jr. of the Manila Police District Homicide Section said. Before his death, however, Duenas was able to tell a relative that Buenaventura Peralta, the 60-year-old former live-in partner of his mother, Mary Ann, was behind his stabbing. Laborers Francis Arcolico, 43, and Wilfredo Abayan, both of Batisan, Floodway, Taytay, Rizal, were arrested during follow-up operations. Yanquiling said Peralta was still at large. Initial investigation showed that Mary Ann died under mysterious circumstances two years ago, prompting Duenas and Peralta to quarrel over her four-story house in Pandacan. The two suspects, meanwhile, denied the accusation against them, saying they were fixing a pipe in the victim's house on the night he was stabbed.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Casino row

A FORMER columnist of a tabloid yesterday filed charges of unjust vexation against an Indian whom he had an argument with in a hotel in Pasay City. Ruther Batuigas, a former columnist of People's Journal, accused Sunil Tuslani of shouting at him at around 1 a.m. yesterday as they were gambling in the casino of the Network Hotel on Gil Puyat Avenue. "They had a misunderstanding of some sort and they ended up shouting at each other," SP02 Danilo Unico, a desk officer, told the INQUIRER yesterday. Tuslani told the police that he called Batuigas' attention because of his rowdy behavior. "I told him off because he was scaring the other customers," he added. He claimed that instead of heeding him, Batuigas shouted invectives at him, prompting him to file countercharges against the journalist.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Paco High reunion

HIGH school graduates of the Paco Catholic School, Batch 1971, will have a reunion on Saturday, Aug. 19. The affair, dubbed "Alive@35," will be held at the Makati Sports Club on Leviste Street, Salcedo Village in Makati at 5 p.m. For more details, please contact Dodo Marasigan at 5632515, 0920-4684528 or Erwin Estrada at 8832139.

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Dream Music Videos	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning		Sa Piling Mo	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN						Fear Factor (Season VI)		Pensacola (Season II)		The Amazing Race 7			E Buzz						
Cartoon Network	Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinema One		Campus Beat				Tanging Yaman				Don Quixote				Bayong Mañalac (Hoodlum Terminator)				Ganito Kita Kamahal	
Cinemax				Arlington Road (4:10 PM)				S.W.A.T. (6:05 PM)				Sneakers				Friday The 13th: A New Beginning			Gothika
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		The Grid		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Prison Break	
Discovery Channel	Connect	The Greatest Ever		More Than Human		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	Beyond Tomorrow		Rides		American Chopper		American Chopper	Building The Ultimate	The Xtractors		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Emperor's New School	America's Funniest Home Video	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				LPGA Golf CN Canadian Women's Open 4th Rd.				Major League Baseball Thursday						Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing		Classic Boxing		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Everwood 2		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code. The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas in Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B.Eye II		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Hustle		Midsomer Murders: Ring Out Your Dead				Regenesis	
HBO			Ocean's Twelve				Men Don't Leave				Caddyshack			Rome Ep 07: Pharsalus		Rome Ep 08: Caesarion	Rome Ep 09: Utica (10:45PM)		Are We There Yet?
Hero TV	Rajin-Oh	Combattler V	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	B'Daman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Rajin-Oh	Combattler V	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Back Track				Sweat	X-Play	Heat		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hate Chris	Family Guy	American Dad	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own		MTV Hits					Get Spotted		MTV Diyes		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Handpicked Up Drama Down		
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wild Orphans	National Geographic Special		Violent Earth: Hurricane		The Dark Side Of Chimps		Top 5 - Predators		WOW! When Dolphins Cry		About Asia		Mega Speed Week		Violent Earth: Hurricane		Survival Of The Fiercest	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya	Teledyaryo W/ Ely Lamat & Angelique Lazo News Bali (Live)		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Pagbubuyag				OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Daang Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ [illegible] Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Danny Phantom/ The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Saan Darating Ang Umaga				Tol Ako Naman				Ang Probinsyano				Night Of The Champions				Sarangani
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sheperds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports		Billiards								Sagupaan	WNBA Action	Beach Volleyball FIVB Women's Finals		World Pool 2006 Masters		Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	World Table Tennis SF S. Ryu vs C. Li	
Sports Plus				World's Greatest Auto Show Year in Review		NASCAR Nextel Cup Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision	BM Clay Shooting	BD Bora Bora	Wild Side Calgary	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	This is The PGA	
Star Movies			The Lazarus Child			One Fine Day (5:10 PM)				Sideways				The Village				Money Train (10:50PM)	
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Third Watch		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23								Superman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Nginig		Ghost Whisperer (8:20 PM)	Living With Fran (9:10 PM)	Will & Grace 8	News Central	Oprah		Reality World

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US schoolteacher arrested in JonBenet murder case

KARR in Thai custody. AFP

BANGKOK—AN AMERICAN PRIMARY school teacher accused of the grisly Christmas 1996 murder of 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey said on Thursday he loved the child beauty queen and her death was an accident.

John Mark Karr, 41, arrested in Thailand on Wednesday in a dramatic twist in the case that has gripped the US media, was charged with murder, kidnapping and sexual abuse of a child.

"I loved JonBenet," Karr told reporters Bangkok in his first public comment since his arrest. "She died accidentally." When asked if he had killed the girl, he appeared to shake his head.

Karr, slender, sandy haired and dressed in a blue polo shirt and beige corduroy trousers, was impassive earlier as he was presented briefly at a news conference, encircled by police.

He was arrested on a US Federal warrant in the presence of FBI officers after being followed for three weeks as he sought a job teaching English and Mathematics in Bangkok.

"We arrested him yesterday at an apartment not far from my office after having followed him for 21 days," Immigration Police chief Lieutenant-General Suwat Tumroungsiskul told Reuters. "During the arrest, we were accompanied by American officers. He has been in and out of Thailand a couple of times and the arrest warrant was issued just a couple of days ago," Suwat told reporters.

Police said Karr had applied for jobs at Bangkok's dozens of international schools. They had said earlier one had hired him.

"People like him are dangerous. We have criminals from all over the world running away from their home countries to look for teaching jobs in Thailand," Suwat said.

US media said Karr had been living in JonBenet's hometown of Boulder, Colorado at the time of the murder. The child was found beaten and strangled in the basement of her home on Dec. 26, 1996.

Bangkok-based US Homeland Security official Ann Hurst told the news conference Karr would be extradited quickly from a country where the process can take weeks.

"He will be removed to the United States within a week," she said. She said Karr had been very cooperative with police and had displayed "a variety of emotions" since his arrest.

The case grabbed big headlines from the start and Boulder County District Attorney Mary Lacy said the arrest followed "several months of a focused and complex investigation." At the time of JonBenet's murder, a note was left on a staircase of the family home saying she had been kidnapped by a "small foreign faction" who wanted $118,000 in ransom.

JonBenet's parents, John and Patsy, came under suspicion during the initial investigation and in 2002 they reached an out-of-court cash settlement with a former detective who wrote a book accusing them of murdering their own daughter. *Reuters*

RAMSEY, found murdered in the basement of her parents Boulder, Colorado house one day after Christmas in 1996. AFP

22 killed in Baghdad bombings; more tension in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—BOMBS killed 22 people in central Baghdad on Wednesday, and gunmen attacked the governor's office in Iraq's second-largest city—another sign of unrest in the Shiite heartland as US troops step up operations in the capital following the deadliest month for civilians of the war.

One bomb exploded late in the morning near a crowd of day laborers waiting for work in the central Nahda district, killing eight people and wounding 28, police Lt. Bilal Ali said.

Two nearly simultaneous car bombs exploded Wednesday evening in the Batayween area of central Baghdad, killing 13 people and wounding 55, police Lt. Ali Mutaab said. The blasts sent up a huge cloud of black smoke over the troubled city.

The deadly blasts underscored the challenge facing US and Iraqi officials as they seek to quell the surge in Sunni-Shiite violence which has been rising steadily since the Feb. 22 explosion at a Shiite shrine in Samarra, triggering a wave of reprisal killings.

Deputy Health Minister Adel Muhsin said about 3,500 Iraqis died last month in sectarian or political violence nationwide. Muhsin said the July figure was the highest monthly death toll for civilians since the war started in March 2003.

Last week, the ministry said about 1,500 violent deaths were reported in the Baghdad area alone in July. US commanders are rushing nearly 12,000 US and Iraqi troops to Baghdad to try to end the carnage.

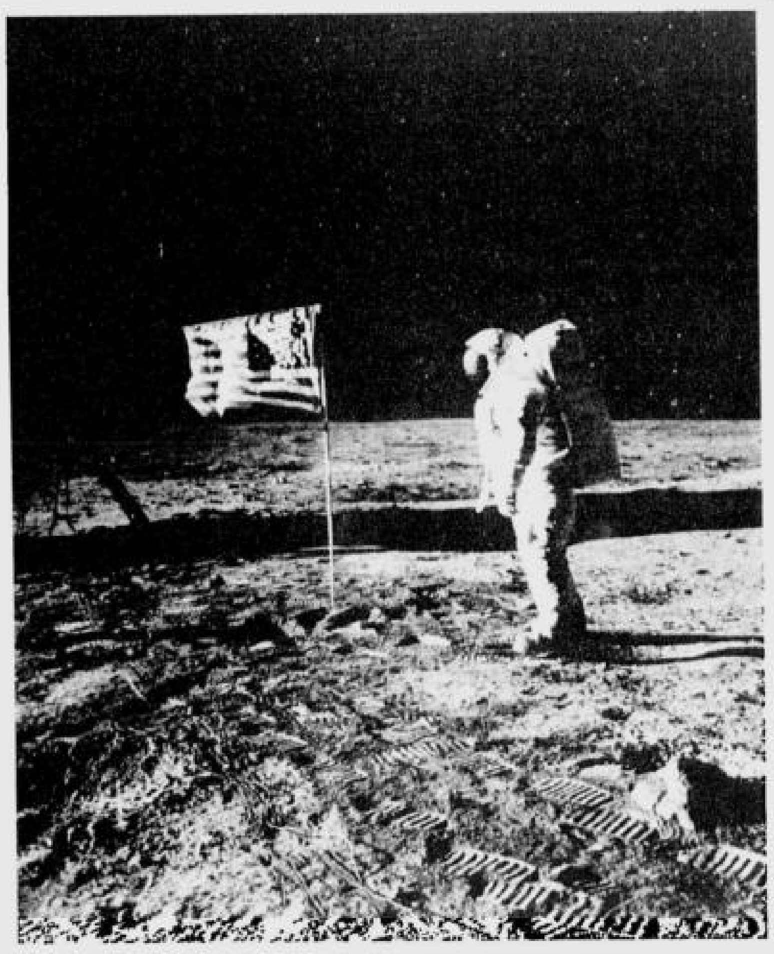
Despite the attention on Baghdad, violence flared Wednesday in southern Basra and northern Mosul, the country's second and third largest cities.

In Basra, 550 km southeast of Baghdad, gunmen from the Bani Assad tribe attacked the provincial governor's office because they believed provincial officials were behind the killing of a tribal leader Tuesday, according to an official who was trapped for a time in the besieged building.

The tribesmen fled after British armored vehicles arrived. Basra Gov. Mohammed al-Waeli said one policeman was killed and four others were wounded. Seven attackers were arrested, he added.

Authorities imposed an indefinite curfew on the city to allow tempers to cool.

In Mosul, 360 km northwest of the capital, armed clashes erupted between police and assailants in three neighborhoods on the mostly Sunni Arab western side of the Tigris River, police Lt. Col. Abdul-Karim Ahmed Khalaf said. *AP*



LOST TAPES
Picture taken July 21, 1969 shows US astronaut Edwin Aldrin standing on the moon beside the deployed flag of the United States during the Apollo 11 mission. Nasa no longer knows the whereabouts of the original tapes of man's first landing on the moon nearly 40 years ago, an official of the US space agency said Aug. 15. AFP

54,700 dead or missing in N. Korea floods

SEOUL—ABOUT 54,700 PEOPLE were left dead or missing and 2.5 million others homeless by last month's devastating floods in North Korea, an independent South Korean humanitarian group said Wednesday.

Good Friends, a long-term aid partner for North Korea, said the floods were the worst in the country's history.

"The number of victims, either dead or missing, totaled 54,700. There were some 2.5 million people left homeless," it said in a statement.

The figure is by far the highest given for the floods and landslides which were said to have wiped out entire villages. Good Friends said early this month that 10,000 were believed dead or missing.

The group described the mid-July damage as "the worst ever in North Korean flooding history." It said the new tally was an "approximate" figure based on final counts in late July, without revealing its sources.

Good Friends added that 231 bridges were washed away along with vast tracks of farmland.

Immediate confirmation was not possible. North Korea's state media reported last month that at least "hundreds" were dead or missing in the flooding.

North Korea was lashed by a typhoon on July 10, followed by three days of heavy monsoon rains. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Sri Lanka planes bomb rebel positions

COLOMBO—Sri Lankan war planes bombed Tamil Tiger positions outside northern Jaffna peninsula Wednesday, the military said, as the president left the door open for peace talks with the rebels. Three daylight attacks by Israeli-built Kfir jets hit Tiger targets inside the rebel-held Wanni region, just south of the Jaffna peninsula, military officials said, adding they had no immediate details of casualties. "Several targets were taken by the air force, but we don't have details yet," a military official here said. Ground troops in Jaffna also hunted rebel infiltrators after resisting a guerrilla advance launched Friday to capture Jaffa town, military spokesperson Upali Rajapakse said. The air attacks came as President Mahinda Rajapakse said his government was still ready for talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) despite the recent battles that have claimed hundreds of lives on both sides. "The door is always open (for talks)," the president told local newspaper editors here. *AFP*

US captures Mexico drug lord

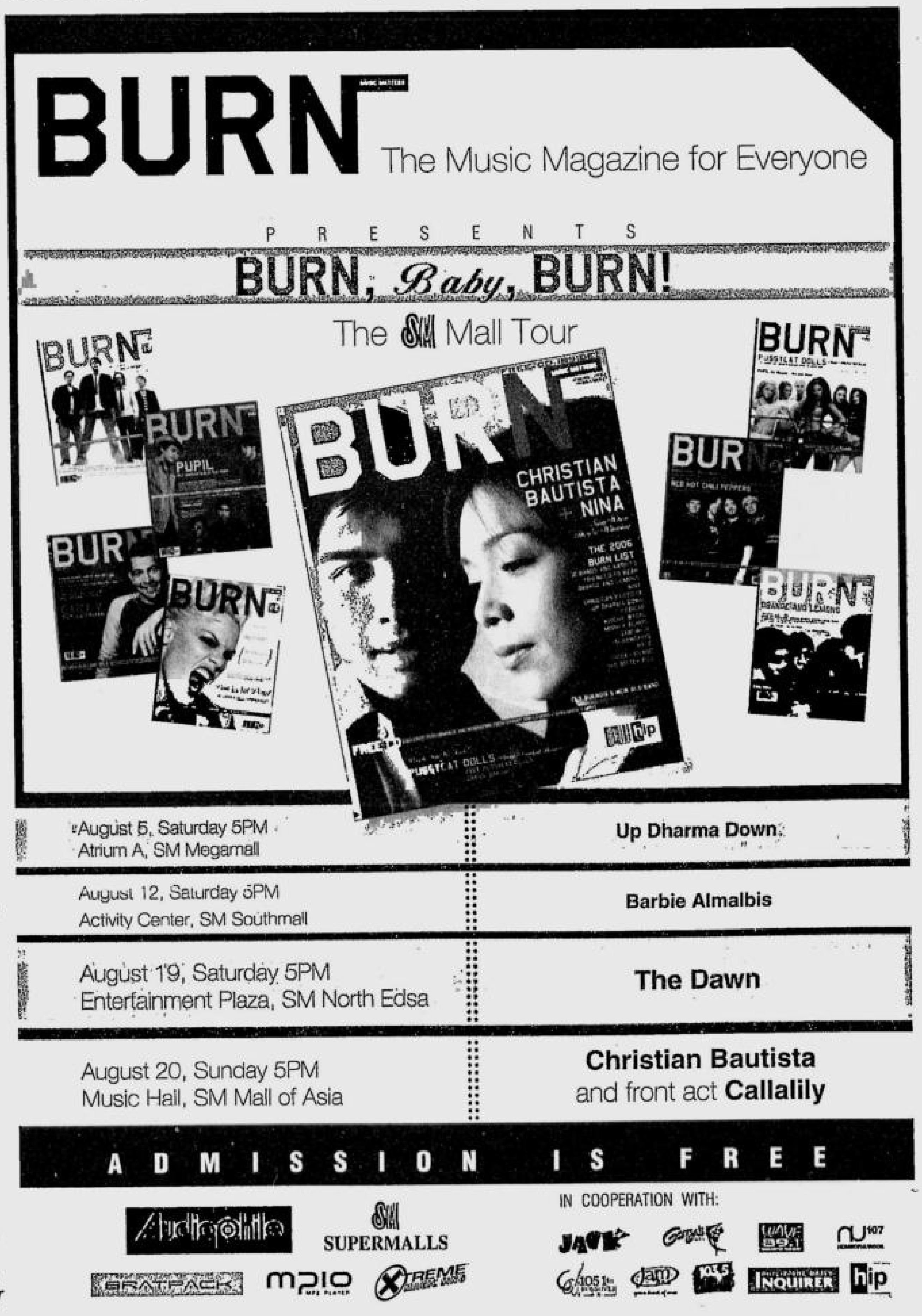
WASHINGTON—The head of the notorious Tijuana, Mexico drug cartel, Francisco Javier Arellano Felix, has been arrested by US officials, the US Justice Department announced Wednesday. Arellano Felix, who had a $5M-reward on his head, was arrested by the US Coast Guard aboard a fishing boat in international waters off the coast of Mexico, said Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty. McNulty said the United States had received word on Monday that Arellano Felix was aboard a US-registered fishing boat off Mexico and sent the Coast Guard to interdict it. The Coast Guard detained eight adults and three juveniles, including Arellano Felix, who had been traveling under an alias. "The Arellano Felix organization is one of the largest drug trafficking organizations operating in the Tijuana, California-Mexico area," he said, calling the Mexican "one of the world's major drug traffickers." One of Mexico's largest and most violent drug organizations, the cartel based in the border city of Tijuana, ships mainly cocaine to the United States. Known as "El Tigrillo," or the little tiger, Arellano Felix took the leadership of the drug gang after the arrest in 2003 of his brother Benjamin and the death of another brother Ramon. *AFP*

Cambodia cancels Miss Universe search

PHNOM PENH—Cambodia has cancelled plans to choose its first Miss Universe contestant in more than a decade after critics slammed the contest as unsuitable for the local culture, organizers said Thursday. The Miss Cambodia 2006 pageant was due to take place this week minus the customary swimsuit round, but slapping a ban on skimpy beachwear was not enough to satisfy the critics. Kem Tola, marketing manager for pageant organizer Planet Communication, said the Ministry of Culture had banned the contest after an outcry over the possible corruption of traditional values and culture. *AFP*

In US, new campaign against drunk driving

WASHINGTON—In a major shift in highway safety strategy, the federal government is turning its focus from seat belts to alcohol. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announced Wednesday that it had signed up thousands of law enforcement agencies across the country to begin a campaign to crack down on drunken drivers through Labor Day. It also will spend $11 million on television advertisements stressing the threat of being arrested for driving under the influence. The paid advertising campaign is the largest in the agency's history. The advertisements, in English and Spanish, show men being pulled over as they sit chest-deep in beer, wine or liquor with cocktail olives floating in it. "We're taking the gloves off on drunk driving," Nicole R. Nason, the agency's administrator, said. *NYT*



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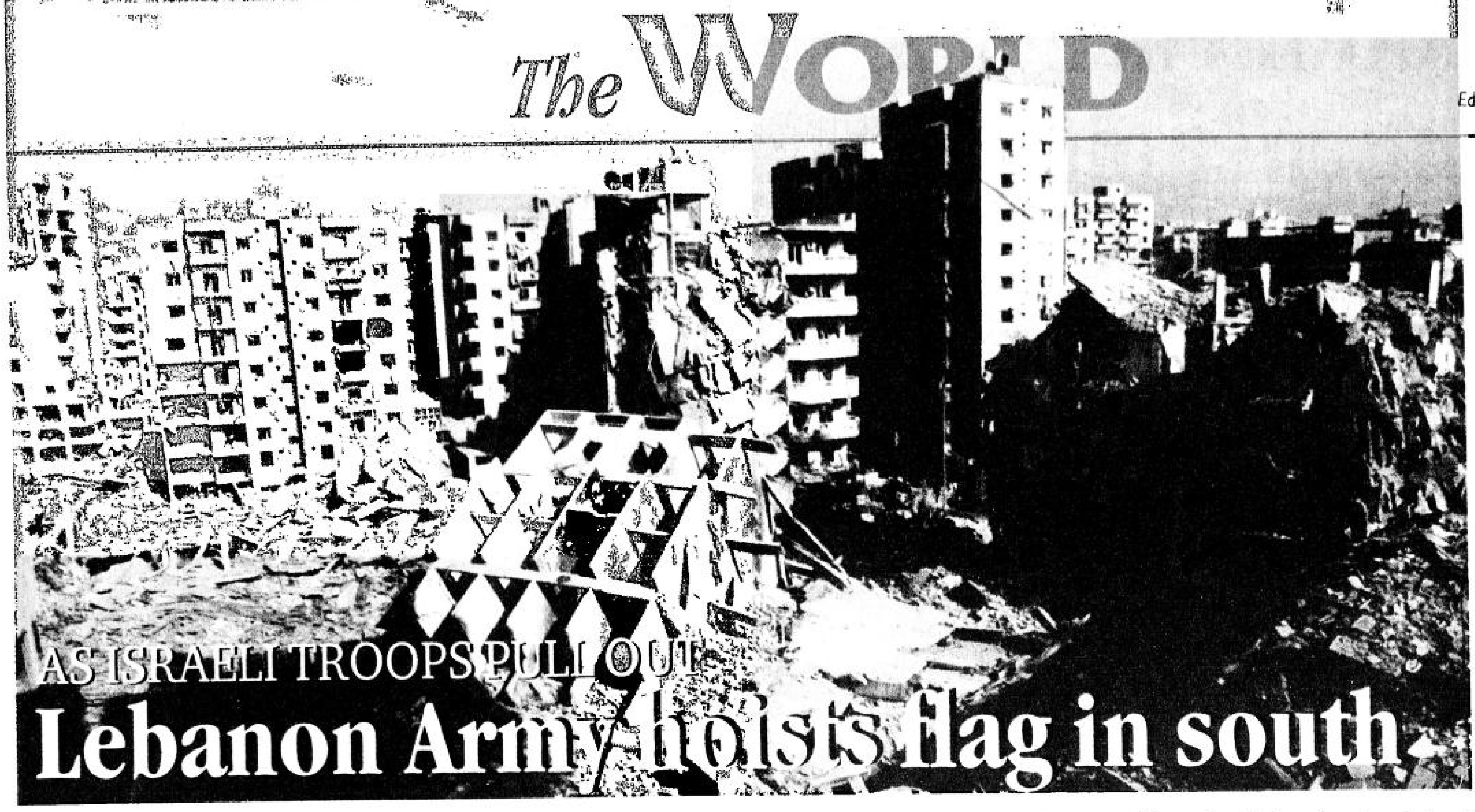


Short war's aftermath—Destroyed residential areas after Israeli bombardment seen in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Aug. 16. Tens of thousands of people have returned to their shattered villages in eastern and southern Lebanon as well as Beirut's southern suburbs, or Dahiyeh, to find their homes either damaged or totally destroyed in a month of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah. AP

AS ISRAELI TROOPS PULL OUT

Lebanon Army hoists flag in south

MARJAYUN, LEBANON—PROUDLY FLYING Lebanese flags, columns of troops began to move across the war-battered south to take control of the Hezbollah stronghold in the first such deployment in decades.

Residents cheered and waved as army troops crossed the Litani River on their way towards the border region as part of a deployment in line with a UN resolution which ended a month of warfare between Israel and Hezbollah.

"God bless them, they are coming to protect us," said Mohammed.

"I am moved to see my army finally arrive and head to the south," added Ghassan.

Fifteen armored vehicles mounted on trailers crossed a newly-erected metallic bridge in Qasimiya which had been destroyed by Israeli attacks during the war on Hezbollah, an AFP correspondent said.

Troops erected a post on the bridge in Qasimiya at the mouth of the Litani about 30 kilometers north of border with Israel and two others further to the south at the entrance to the coastal city of Tyre, correspondents on the scene said.

Further southeast, 15 tanks and 10 military trucks crossed the Hasbani bridge heading to the mountainous Arqub region, an AFP correspondent said. Some residents waved yellow Hezbollah flags as they welcomed the troops.

It is the Lebanese army's first deployment in decades in the south, which has been under the sway of the Hezbollah militant group since Israel ended a 22-year occupation in 2000.

The first members of a 2,500-strong Lebanese army brigade arrived in the town of Marjayun, about 7 kilometers north of the border and overlooking the Galilee panhandle in northern Israel.

General Charles Shikhani, the head of the forces in the Marjayun area, told AFP that the forces are due to deploy in the eastern sector, mainly in the border regions of Khiam, Ibl Saqi, Arqub, Shebaa and Kfar Shuba.

"We should deploy within 24 hours along the Blue Line," the UN-demarcated border between Lebanon and Israel, he said.

Shikhani expressed joy at the first deployment of such magnitude in three decades in the border area, which had been controlled by Palestinian factions until the Israeli invasion of 1982 before being overtaken by Shiite guerrillas.

"What do you expect ... we are extremely happy, this is our country," he said.

The first phase of the promised deployment to the longtime Hezbollah bastion in southern Lebanon comes on the fourth day of a UN-brokered ceasefire to end a month-long conflict that left more than 1,300 people dead. *AFP*

Israel defense chief orders inquiry into handling of Lebanon war

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI DEFENSE Minister Amir Peretz on Wednesday ordered an inquiry into the army's handling of the offensive in Lebanon amid public outcry that it failed to silence Hezbollah's rockets.

Just days after the fighting was halted, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert faces the toughest battle of his career while army chief Dan Halutz is under pressure to resign for dumping his shares just hours before the conflict began.

Now Peretz has told Halutz that an external inquiry panel has been set up to look into the handling of the month-long Israeli offensive in Lebanon against the Shiite militants of Hezbollah, a defense ministry official told AFP.

The probe, to be led by Amnon Lipkin Shahak, a former chief of staff and later minister of tourism, will examine the army's preparation and conduct of the war, which left 160 Israelis dead, including 41 civilians.

Olmert launched the offensive after Hezbollah captured two soldiers in a deadly cross-border raid on July 12 vowing to retrieve the captives and cripple the guerrilla group.

But on the day his cabinet agreed to a UN-brokered ceasefire more than a month later, the soldiers remained missing and Hezbollah kept up its rocket attacks unabated, firing a record 250 salvos into northern Israel.

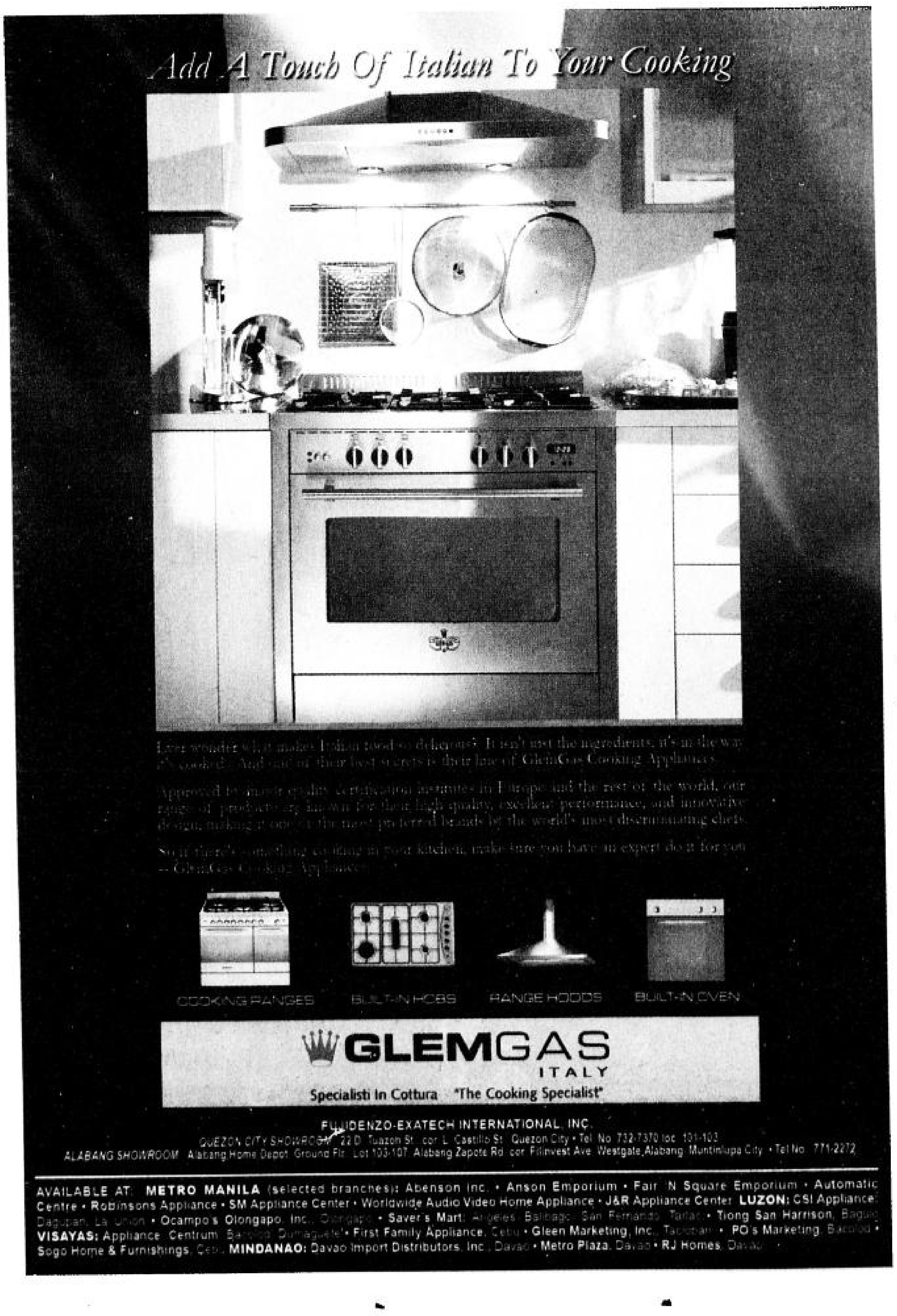
After a war that saw more than 4,000 Hezbollah rockets slam down onto the Jewish state, critics charged that Olmert rushed into the war without sufficient preparation or consideration of the consequences.

Adding to the controversy over the less than decisive outcome of the war, army chief Halutz confirmed newspaper allegations that he sold shares hours before the start of the Israeli offensive.

Calls for his resignation have come from parliament but also from the highest circles of the defense establishment.

Peretz, a former trade union leader who heads the Labor party, is also under fire, but has defended the army chief's "loyalty and dedication." Halutz sold shares worth 26,000 dollars at noon on July 12, three hours after the Hezbollah raid.

Amid growing public disquiet about the results of the offensive, Halutz last week effectively demoted the head of the northern command, Major-General Udi Adam, and put his deputy in charge of coordinating the military offensive. *AFP*



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CAT WITH THE GOLDEN TEETH

In undated photo, Sebastian, a Persian cat with long black hair, sports gold crowns on his two large teeth, which grew sticking out from his lips in an underbite similar to a bulldog's. Concerned that his cat's exposed teeth could be damaged, Dr. David Steele a dentist from Alexandria, Ind., had gold crowns made for his cat pet. AP

EU eyes new measures vs terror after London plot

LONDON—EUROPEAN MINISTERS IN charge of security on Wednesday pledged to increase their cooperation against terrorism, saying they may begin by blocking certain Internet sites, using fingerprinting or iris-scanning technology, and training Muslim preachers to discourage militancy.

Ministers from Finland, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and France met here with the British home secretary, John Reid, to map out new antiterrorism measures. Afterward, in a news conference, they laid out proposals that signaled a shift for Europe, which has been loath to limit individual freedoms or to try to impose a uniform set of values.

"We face a persistent and very real threat across Europe," said Reid. Would-be terrorists are hoping to "abuse our open societies," he said, and have "no regard for human life and human rights."

Ultimately, the "rights of the individual must and will be balanced against the collective rights of security and protection of life and limb," he said.

The ministers said they will speed up plans to increase cooperation between the intelligence forces in their home countries, and allow them to share information directly with their counterparts. They also plan to step up cooperation on research into explosives, particularly liquid explosives. European Union nations may establish "rapid response" antiterrorism teams that could rush to the aid of member states, the ministers said.

While sharing information may be desirable, some governments have resisted it because of varying law enforcement and counterterrorism practices, said Martin R. Pollner, senior partner at the law firm Loeb & Loeb in New York and a former US representative to Interpol, the international police network.

British law enforcement officials, for instance, typically wait longer to arrest terrorism suspects than do American authorities, he said, because the British want to let a plot develop further so that they have stronger evidence when it comes to prosecuting a case. That may have made them reluctant in the past to share information with European or other colleagues, Pollner said. *New York Times*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Tiger gives PGA rivals the creeps /A25

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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Murray stuns Federer in Cincinnati /A25

Another escape act for Eagles

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Philsports Arena*)
10 a.m.—Adamson vs UST (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—FEU vs UE (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs NU (Jrs)
4 p.m.—UST vs NU (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES pulled off another escape act.

Shaking off a rusty start, JC Intal nailed a short jumper with only 8.9 seconds remaining to lift the Eagles past the Adamson Falcons, 66-65, for their seventh straight win in the UAAP men's basketball tournament yesterday at the PhilSports Arena.

"Adamson is always a tough match for us," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "Out of all the teams in the league, they have the size to match us so we have no advantage. But we hung in there. Every team has a go-to guy and for us it's JC Intal. We executed the play exactly the way it is."

The unbeaten Eagles also drew a huge game from sophomore center Rabeh Al-Hussaini, who collected 16 points, 13 rebounds and two blocks.

It was almost a replay of the Falcons' heartbreaking 73-72 loss to the Eagles last month.

As in their first round encounter, the Falcons had a chance to pull off an upset. But this time, it was Marvin Poloyapoy who turned the ball over on the final play.

Earlier, the Far Eastern Tamaraws stayed on the road to recovery with an 89-76 triumph over the University of the Philippines Maroons to claim solo third.

Led by veteran Jeff Chan, the defending champion Tamaraws cruised to their fourth straight win after opening the season at 0-4.

Chan fired 22 points, while Jonas Villanueva paced the Tamaraws' strong start by shooting 13 of his 19 markers in the first half.

"We challenged all their shooters, stopped their transition and dictated the tempo," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "It was also a big factor that (Marvin) Cruz wasn't in the first half."

UP's top gunner Cruz was benched for the first two quarters for disciplinary reasons. The veteran point guard, who still scored a team-high 15 points, reportedly arrived late for the game's required call time.

The Maroons skidded to their third straight loss for a 2-6 slate. The Falcons fell to fifth at 3-5.

Doug Kramer also contributed for the Eagles by burying two key baskets in the final two-minute stretch.

Before Intal's game-winning shot, Kramer nailed a jumper that pushed the Eagles within 65-64 at the 1:18 mark.

Committing no turnovers in the first half, the Falcons took a 29-19 spread.

In junior play, the Ateneo Blue Eaglets streaked to their eighth straight victory with an 81-64 rout of the Sto. Tomas Tigers Cubs.

The second-running FEU Baby Tamaraws improved their record to 7-1 after overwhelming the UP Junior Maroons, 100-67. The University of the East Pages trounced the National U Bullpups, 83-78, for their second win in nine games.

The varsity scores:

First Game

FEU 89—Chan 22, Villanueva 19, Fernandez 11, Barcellano 11, Adolfo 9, Mangahas 5, Baracael 4, Gerill 4, Dela Cruz 4, Afable 0, Reyes 0.

UP 76—Cruz 15, David 14, Co 11, Serios 10, De Asis 8, Epres 6, Reyes 5, Buyco 3, Salvador 2, Maniego 2, Cacha 0, Braganza 0.

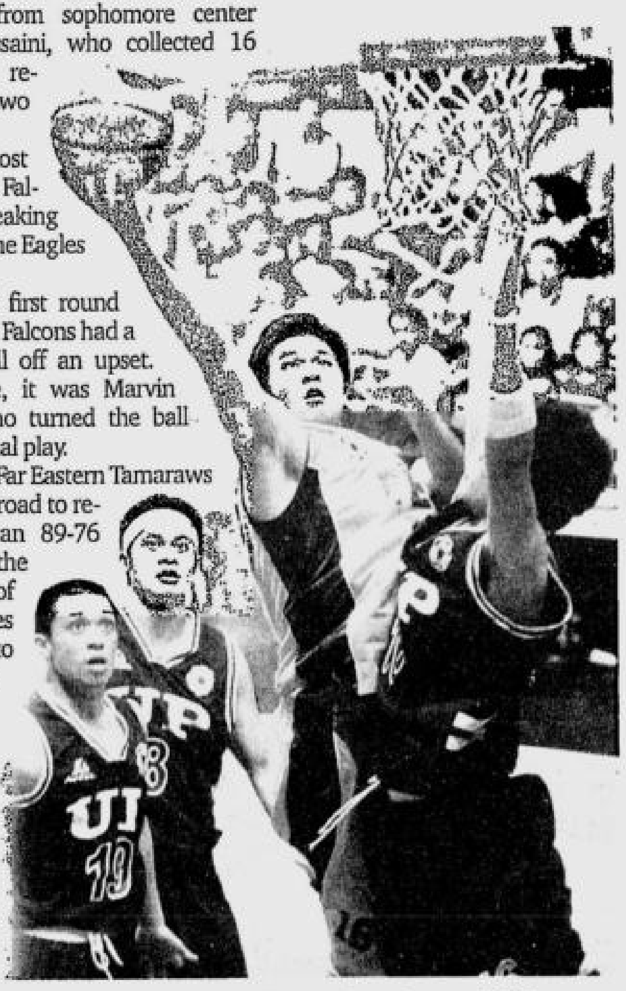
Quarters: 24-15, 51-40, 74-60, 89-76

Second Game

ATENEO 66—Al-Hussaini 16, Tiu 14, Intal 14, Kramer 10, Barracoso 4, Escalona 3, Escueta 2, Arao 2, Salamat 1, Ulchico 0, Quimson 0, Laterre 0.

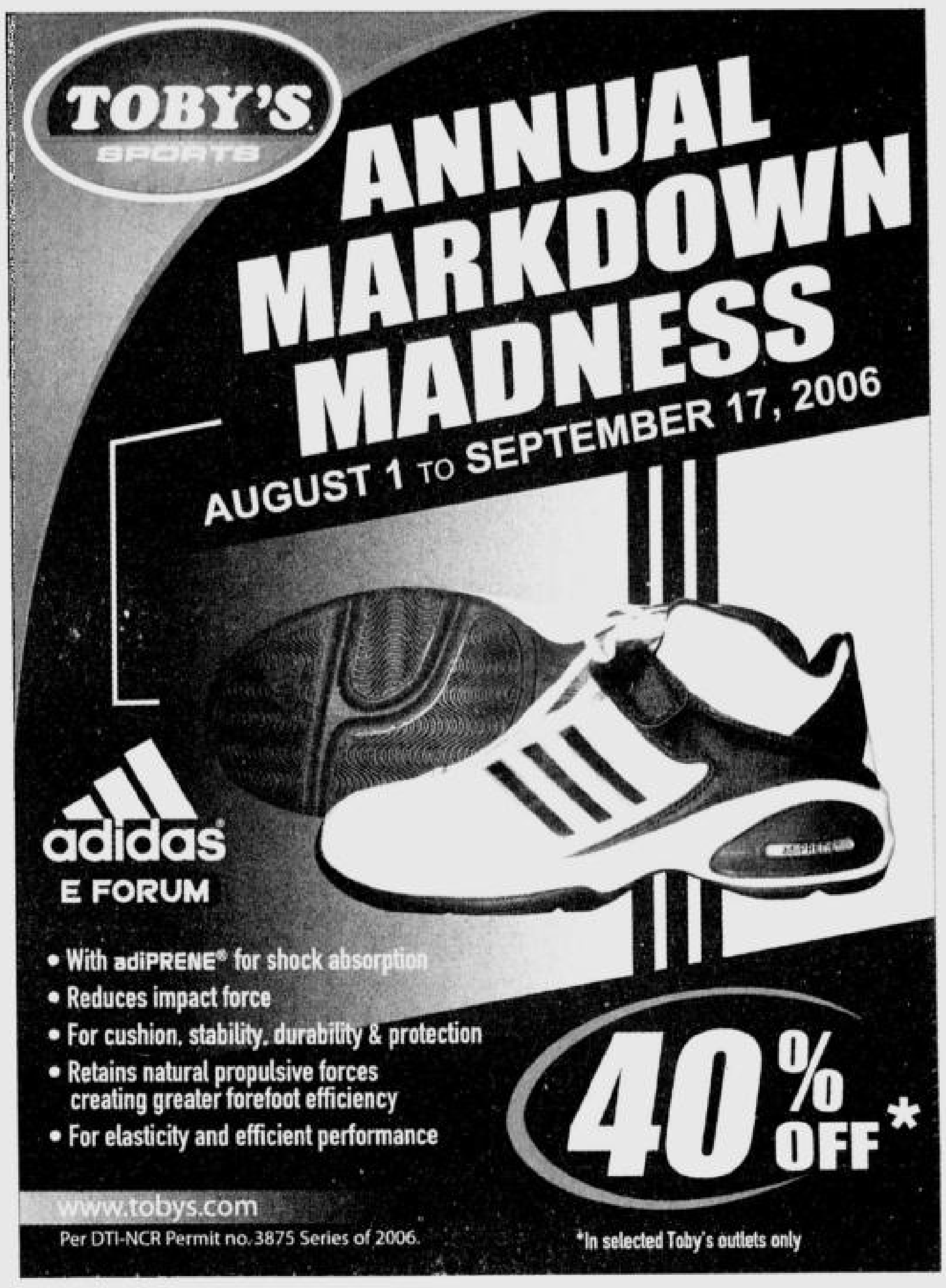
ADAMSON 65—Bono 21, Hugnatan 14, Gonzalgo 11, Cabahug 8, Poloyapoy 6, Canuday 3, Basilio 2, Santos 0, Pacheco 0, Yong 0.

Quarters: 16-15, 33-38, 49-48, 66-65



FAR Eastern's Marlon Adolfo goes for a layup off UP's Woodcard Co in yesterday's game. RYAN LIM

Do or die for Altas, Bombers A26



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Bacolod girls still alive despite loss

KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON—BACOLOD City's Education and Training Center School (ETCS) bowed to Naples, Florida, 2-0, Wednesday but kept its semifinal hopes alive in the 2006 Junior League (13-14) Softball World Series at the Everest Park here.

The loss was the first for the Asia-Pacific champion Filipinos, who with a 2-1 win-loss record can still make it to the semifinal playoffs with a victory over the Asofem Little League team (1-2) from Maunabo, Puerto Rico, on Thursday.

Naples (3-0) tries to score a four-game sweep in Pool B against Elyria, Ohio (1-2) in another Thursday game.

In Kalamazoo, Michigan, Team Manila took a 3-2 loss to host District 2-Michigan and went out of title contention in the round-robin phase of the Big League (15-16) Softball World Series.

The Manilans, who split their two assignments in the first two days, dropped into a tie for fifth at 2-3 with West Virginia.

Another Michigan team from District 9 shared the lead with Manila's conqueror at 5-0, followed by Connecticut at 4-1 and California at 3-3.

Meanwhile, the two International Little League Association of Manila (Illam) teams seeing action in two other World Series tournaments finished their schedules on a losing note.

The Senior League Baseball World Series team managed by Arsenic Laurel concluded its Pool A stint with a 5-2 loss to Canada representative Regina National LL from Regina, Satkatchewan, on Thursday.

The Filipinos scored a run each in the upper half of the second and third innings but their rivals countered with two each in their half of the sames frames before adding another run in the fifth.

Outhit 8-6, the Filipinos compounded their troubles by yielding five errors.

The young RP clouters finished with a 1-3 record, their only win coming last Monday on a 2-1 decision of host Bangor Westside/East. Their other losses were a 21-4 rout by Pearl City from Oahu, Hawaii Sunday and a 12-1 whipping from York Country, Yorktown, Virginia, Tuesday.

The other Illam team seeing action in the Little League Softball (11-12) World Series in Portland, Oregon, absorbed a 5-4 nipping from Latin America champion Juliana Little League from Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, in a match pitting the teams that placed fourth in the eliminations.

The Illam team finished at 1-3 in Pool B.

If the Bacolod team survives the Puerto Ricans, they move into the semifinals against the top squad from Pool A, where West Point from Greensburg, Pennsylvania, is leading at 3-0.

The tournament produced the country's lone softball world series champion in 2003 when another Bacolod team won. *With a report from Christian Irl Tan, Inquirer Visayas*

FILIPINO Luke Bernardo drops his catcher's mask as a runner slides home for the Canadian's third of four runs Wednesday.

In-luck Pagulayan turns back Gabica

By Musong R. Castillo

UP AGAINST A FORMIDABLE FOE for the first time and not playing his best, Alex Pagulayan declared himself one lucky chap.

"I know that I get stronger the longer the tournament gets," Pagulayan said after coming back from two racks down to nip Antonio Gabica, 9-7, and advance to the Final Four of the winner's bracket in the 2006 National Pool championship at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"But you still need luck to win, and I had it tonight."

The top-seeded Pagulayan, the reigning US Open champion fancied to prevail here, won the final two racks to wriggle out of a 7-7 tie and advance opposite Ronnie Alcano.

Alcano came back from 2-5 and 6-3 deficits to hammer out a 9-6 decision over Romeo Gallego.

Pagulayan, the 2004 World Pool champion, pounced on a dry Gabica break in the 15th frame then ran out the 16th to clinch the win.

So disgusted was Gabica in blowing a 4-2 lead and that golden chance in the 15th frame that he brushed off reporters' questions after the match.

The 33-year-old Gabica, who advanced to the quarterfinals with a 9-3 victory over Rolando Garcia, will next play in the round-of-16 of the loser's bracket.

Gandy Valle and Dennis Orcollo also advanced in the bottom half of the winner's semifinals, with Valle getting there after a 9-6 win over Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Orcollo turning back Mario Tolentino, 9-8, late Wednesday.

Tournament format calls for the finalists in both brackets to slug it out in a crossover format to determine the protagonists in the tournament finals. The winner goes home with the P1 million top prize while the second placer gets P500,000.

The finalists in both brackets also earn outright seedings into the rich World Pool championships scheduled in Manila this November.

Little-known Elmer Haya turned back Romeo Del Rosario, 9-3, and Lee Vann Corteza sustained his climb from the loser's side after a 9-2 drubbing of Panfilo Damu-ag.

The 27-year-old Corteza, a native of Davao, next clashes with Garcia.

Leonardo "Dodong" Andam bowed to Victor Arpilleda, 7-9.

CEU repulses UMak, gains second round

JUNE MACASAET SCATTERED 23 POINTS AS Centro Escolar downed University of Makati, 79-73, yesterday and reached the second round of the Naascu basketball tourney at the UM Gym.

Macasaet led three other Scorpions in double figures as CEU notched its fifth victory against two losses to tie idle STI at second place behind unbeaten San Sebastian-Cavite.

Amacu has the inside track on the fourth qualifying berth. In Junior actionm St. Clare routed Better Children St. Clare Montessori Center, 81-52, for its fourth win in five games.

GAMES TODAY
(*NEU Gym*)
9 a.m.—NEU vs St. Clare (Srs)
(UM Gym)
12 noon—NEU vs AMACU (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—PLP vs STI (Srs)
3 p.m.—AMACU vs SSC-R Cav (Srs)

SPORTSWATCH

Little League baseball listing tomorrow

THE INTERNATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF MANILA (ILLAM) will hold the registration of players for the 2006-07 baseball tomorrow at the Adidas Sports Kamp at The Fort in Taguig. Registration runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Male and female children are grouped according to age divisions—Tee Ball (4-6), Coach Pitch (7-8), Minors (9-10), Majors (11-12), Juniors (13-14), Seniors (15-16) and Big League (17-18). Illam is a non-profit, volunteer organization that promotes the development of baseball as a sport for the youth. For inquiries, call Kakay Santos at myillam@pldtdsl.net or visit their website at www.illam.ph.

Battle of champs in Pasay gets going

COCKFIGHT CHAMPIONS FROM METRO MANILA AND NEARBY provinces collide at the Pasay City Cockpit as the invitational 3-cock derby blasts off at 7 p.m. today with 51 fights on tap. The derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. "Since this is the last derby of the cock season, the participants will field their ace fighters to end it on a good note," said pit manager Eric dela Rosa and host Danny Aguilar. The venue's Smalltime 3-Stag Derby comes next on Aug. 25. For inquiries, call 843-1890 or 0920-4373730.

Fair matches assured in LPC stag derby

DUE TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF STAGS, PARTICIPANTS IN THE ANNUAL Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby slated at the Las Piñas Coliseum on Aug. 24 and 26 can expect fair matching of entries, according to former mayor Nene Aguilar, who is hosting the affair for the benefit of the city's clean and green project. The 2-stag elimination round fires off on Aug. 24. All entries with at least one point will advance to the finals on Aug. 26. Screening will be held tomorrow and on Sunday. For inquiries, call 873-1040, 874-3910 or 0926-7450375.

'Rambulan' stagfest kicks off Monday

THE 2006 STAGFIGHTING SEASON STARTS THIS MONDAY VIA THE RAMbulan 5-Stag Derby at the San Juan Coliseum with backyard breeders and new cockers expected to compete. "Many first-time participants are eager to test the fighting styles of their new battlecrosses," said promoter Ronnie Lacsina. Scheduled on Aug. 21, 23, 25, 28 and 30, the stagfest, backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, stakes a prize pot of P2.5 million for an entry fee of P8,800. For inquiries, call 0918-9001411, 725-5369 or 725-6563.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Dazzling Cat/League Leader (3), Golden Rhythm (1), Ididitymyway (5), Sugar Daddy (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalmia (7), Mighty Mare (6), Balwarte (3), Arctic Desert (1)
Race 3—(Tri)—Marapangi Moon (3), Alam Mo Na Yan (6), Anndalei (2)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Real Tough (1), Makati Haven (3), Batang Westside (7), GI Speedball (5)
Race 5—(Tri)—Kai Maki (3), Bull Rock (2), Golden Song (1)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Angel of Light (1), Sail & Sign (5), Lady Boomer (4), Gin Dancer (3)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (3), She Boom (1), Awesome Power (2), Just Joshua (1), Infinite Passion (6)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Parrot Moe (5), Carmelita (3), Kimagure (1), Nitty Gritty (4)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Don Exequiel/At All Cost (5), Triple Threat (4), Rivendel (10), Spanish Drums (1),, Tiger Rafty (2), Burst of Speed (3)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Regional Office III
PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., San Agustin, City of San Fernando Pampanga
Healthline (045) 963-7148 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. III-06-003

PhilHealth Regional Office III (PRO III), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites registered and licensed janitorial services agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of Janitorial and Other Related Services
Location : PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., City of San Fernando
Brief Description : Provision of janitorial and other related services to PhilHealth Regional Office III and its 10 Service Offices in Region III
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php2,849,000.00
Contract Duration : One (1) Year
Delivery Period : Within 15 days after issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 11 to August 25, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	August 25, 2006 at 1:30 PM
3. Opening of Bids	September 06, 2006 at 1:30 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	September 07 to 14, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	September 15 to 22, 2006
6. Notice of Award	October 09, 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Cashier of PhilHealth Regional Office III.

(Sgd.) PRISCILLA G. ASUNCION
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 11 & 18, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) wishes to invite bidders for the **BLADE SERVERS and PERIPHERALS** and **STORAGE AREA NETWORK (SAN) CAPACITY UPGRADE** projects.

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Blade Servers and Peripherals project can be obtained from August 17 to August 30, 2006 and from August 18 to August 31, 2006 for the Storage Area Network (SAN) project from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committee (OSBAC) Room 1107 11th Floor, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php **4,750.00** per document.

The **PhilHealth** had provided funds for these projects for which this invitation is issued. The approved budget for each contract is **Php 9,500,000.00** each.

A pre-bid conference for the Blade Servers and Peripherals project will be held on August 31, 2006 while the pre-bid conference for the Storage Area Network (SAN) will be held on September 01, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1106).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop them in their respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids for the Blade Servers and Peripherals and Storage Area Network (SAN) project will be on September 21, 2006 and September 22, 2006 respectively, on or before 1:30 noon at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue on the respective dates. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the Bundy clock located at Room 1107 (OSBAC). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using **the non-discretionary "pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount;

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 95,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 142,500.00
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 237,500.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php 9,500,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements and of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and
Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(PDI – August 18 & 25, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF OLONGAPO
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
Engineering Department, 3/F City Hall Complex
Tel./Fax No. 047-222-3301
Web: www.olongapocity.gov.ph
Email: Olongapo@piol.net

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Olongapo City Government through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid separately for each individual project with their respective budget sourced stated below:

1.) Name Of Project: Proposed OPD/Medical Arts Building
Approved Budget for the Contract: Php 22,839,476.00
Location Of Project: JLGMH, New Asinan, Olongapo City
Project Description: Building Construction
Source of Fund: DBP Loan

2.) Name Of Project: Proposed Pedestrian Bridge at Ulo ng Apo Rotonda (Phase I)
Approved Budget for the Contract: Php 9,000,000.00
Location Of Project: East and West Bajac-Bajac, Olongapo City
Project Description: Design and Construction
Source of Fund: Lot sales (Trust Fund)

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the implementation of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of the Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	August 15-28, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 29-30, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 01, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 07, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 11-13, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 15, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 28, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the **OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER**, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P500.00 to the Treasurer's Office**. Prospective bidders shall submit the eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount to the City Treasurer's Office.

The OLONGAPO CITY GOVERNMENT assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MERLITO J. MAJARUCON
BAC Secretariat

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANGELITO OROZCO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–August 18 & 26, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2 MILLION PCS. OF 1 KILOGRAM PLASTIC CONTAINER

The **National Food Authority** Region V invites all interested parties to participate in the bidding for the purchase of 2.5 million pieces of 1 kilogram plastic container with the following specification:

SPECIFICATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
6.5 inches x 10.5 inches x .03 mm Poly Ethelene (PE)	Php 2,050,000.00 (Inclusive of VAT)

The following volume shall be delivered to the corresponding designated NFA Offices, to wit:

PROVINCE	QUANTITY (PCS.)	DELIVERY POINT
CAM SUR	375,000	NFA Palestina, Pili, Camarines Sur
MASBATE	2,000,000	NFA, Masbate City
ALBAY	125,000	NFA Pier Site, Legazpi City
TOTAL	2,500,000	

Offerors shall be required to post a bid bond equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total amount based on his/her price offer. It shall be in the form of Cash, Manager's check or Cashier's check payable to NFA.

Bid documents such as Tender Form including terms and conditions shall be issued only to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable/non-transferrable fee of P500.00 to the RBAC Secretariat not later than August 18, 2006. For further details you may contact the RBAC Secretariat at telephone numbers (052) 480-7015/480-7933 & 820-0018.

The bidding will be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Regional Office, Pier Site, Legazpi City on the following schedule:

Pre-Bid Conference - 10:00 a.m. August 17, 2006
Bidding - 10:00 a.m. August 29, 2006

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to NFA. The decision of the Committee as confirmed by the Regional Director shall be deemed final.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. GUEVARA
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug 11 & 18, 2006)

Spurs guard Bowen last player cut from US five

LOS ANGELES—SAN ANTONIO'S Bruce Bowen was axed from the USA team for the Basketball World Championships when coach Mike Krzyzewski announced the final roster on Wednesday.

Bowen, 35, was the final player cut as the team finalized their preparations in South Korea for the start of the tournament in Japan on Saturday.

Superstars LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat headline the final roster for the Americans.

Joining the high-flying James up front will be Denver Nuggets swingman Carmelo Anthony, Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh, Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard, Los Angeles Clippers forward Elton Brand, Sacramento Kings center Brad Miller, Houston Rockets forward Shane Battier and Washington Wizards swingman Antawn Jamison.

Wade will be flanked in the backcourt by New Orleans Hornets point guard Chris Paul, Chicago Bulls guard Kirk Hinrich and Atlanta Hawks sharpshooter Joe Johnson.

Guard Gilbert Arenas of the Washington Wizards was forced to leave the team after suffering a groin strain during practice Monday.

Center Amare Stoudemire of the Phoenix Suns left Team USA on Aug. 3 to continue to rehabilitate his surgically repaired knees.

"This has been a great process, it's difficult especially when you get down to the end because you get so attached to the last members of the team," Krzyzewski said. "Gilbert and Bruce are every bit a part of this team as the 12 others guys, it's just we can only go forward with 12." *AFP*

China ready with Wang, Yao Ming

SENDAI, JAPAN—WITH BIG MEN YAO MING and Wang Zhizhi recovered from injury, China is hoping their return to fitness will propel the team into a legitimate force at the World Basketball Championships.

Yao looked strong in his third game back from injury in a 63-61 warm-up win against Australia on Tuesday, scoring 21 points, including the winning basket with 2.7 seconds on the clock.

"I'm doing my best to recover, but I must say, right now I'm not in the best condition," he told journalists after the match.

"Right now our problem is how to dig down deep and find strength, we can't play like we did in the Olympics when we easily gave up.

"If we can play to our strengths, then we will have the opportunity to battle at the World Championships."

The Chinese team, which has won four matches and lost 11 in their run-up to the tournament beginning in Japan Saturday, looked completely different when Yao and Wang took the court.

The team will face Italy on opening day Group D action.

Yao returned to national side duty in an 82-73 lost to Germany on Friday last week after doctors said that his foot, broken in an April NBA game with the Houston Rockets, was sufficiently recovered. *AFP*

Tiger gives PGA rivals the creeps

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—TIGER WOODS TEES off in Thursday's opening round of the PGA Championship as red-hot favorite to claim his second successive major title this year.

The world number one has produced sublime form in his last two starts, securing last month's British Open by two shots and claiming his 50th PGA Tour victory at the Buick Open two weeks ago.

Every component of his game appears to be in near-perfect order and, according to his caddie Steve Williams, he has never swung the club better.

The game's best practitioner since Jack Nicklaus, Woods is unquestionably the player to beat at Medinah Country Club in the minds of his rivals.

"The way he's been playing right now, he's always a threat," last year's US Open champion Michael Campbell said during a news conference Wednesday.

"His form is second to none. I think Earl passing away two or three months ago has empowered him a lot as a player."

Woods's father Earl, who had been battling prostate cancer since 1998, died May 3.

Australian Geoff Ogilvy, who won his first major title at the US Open in June, agrees.

TIGER Woods examines his iron on the driving range during practice. AP

"He had that kind of swagger, kind of twirling the club after he hits it; that kind of strut he has when he's playing really well, that 'no one is beating me' look in his eye," he said.

Ogilvy has been grouped with Woods and Masters champion Phil Mickelson for the first two rounds in the traditional marquee grouping of the season's three major winners.

Woods has triumphed five times in 12 worldwide starts this year, a remarkable statistic given that he took nine weeks off after the Masters in early April to deal with the illness and death of his father.

He did not return to tournament golf until the US Open at Winged Foot. Hardly surprisingly, he missed the cut there in a major championship for the first time as a professional.

Since then, though, he has flourished, tying for second at the Western Open and coasting to victory in his next two starts at the British Open and the Buick.

Although he desperately misses his father, with whom he shared a particularly close bond, his hunger to acquire more major titles is probably stronger now than ever before.

Hunting his 12th career major, Woods feels he is close to the dominance he produced in his golden run of five major triumphs in six starts from late 1999 to early 2001.

"I think it's very similar," he said. "I've had some great steps in my career out here so far, and this is certainly one of them. Hopefully I can keep it going for a while."

Woods and company will have to tackle the longest layout in major history this week. Medinah's No. 3 Course has been stretched to 7,561 yards since it staged its first PGA Championship in 1999, when Woods triumphed by a stroke over a 19-year-old Sergio Garcia.

"The golf course is absolutely fantastic," the world number one said. *Reuters*

Will Cojuangco, Lina kiss and make up?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY and the Filipino youth, I appeal to the Philippine Olympic Committee to reconsider its expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines so our aspiring players will get the opportunity to compete in this year's Doha Asian Games and, possibly, the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

This is a "must" because the BAP cannot send a national team to any Fiba-recognized tournament like the Asiad and the Olympics without POC approval. POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and BAP head Joey Lina should forget their past differences and pursue the common goal of regaining membership in the international basketball federation (Fiba). The Philippines was suspended by Fiba after the POC expelled the BAP, a longtime Fiba member, last June 30, 2005 and replaced it with the fledgling Pilipinas Basketball.

Since the Fiba suspension, the country was unable to take part in several international tournaments, including last year's ABC (Asian Basketball Confederation) championship and the 23rd Southeast Asian Games held here last December.

In suspending the Philippines, the Fiba, through secretary general Patrick Baumann, said it could not accept the POC decision to expel one group in favor of another, stressing that the POC should have given new BAP president (Joey) Lina more time to effect changes in the beleaguered association after he took over from an ailing Tiny Literal only some months back.

"For the mistakes of some," Lina said with a deep sigh, "the entire institution is banished." He added the BAP, being a regular Fiba member, would be represented in the Fiba World Congress in Saitama, Japan, where the World Basketball Championship is set to start tomorrow. The Fiba is also set to announce the lifting of its suspension on the Philippines during the said congress, it was reported.

Nowadays, the Philippines lags behind the very nations we used to beat in basketball. Gone are the days when our cage teams are almost assured of bringing home medals. In the William Jones Cup in Taiwan last month, SMC-Pilipinas—composed mostly of PBA players and a few pro-bound college stars—lost four games in five starts and failed to qualify for the round of four. Then in the just-ended Al-Emadi International Basketball Championship in Doha, Qatar, SMC-Pilipinas finished last, losing all its five games. Still, national coach Chot Reyes said he was "happy and proud of the players. As individuals and as a team, we've learned a lot."

Under the Olympic Charter, the BAP is autonomous and so is Fiba. The POC, my sources said, committed a grave abuse of discretion when it expelled the BAP. "The POC could have asked for a change in leadership, but not to abolish the whole BAP. Even the International Olympic Committee does not interfere in Fiba affairs."

* * *

SPORTS BRIEFS. A survey conducted by NBC Sports, the American television network, showed that women viewers prefer to watch gymnastics, swimming and diving, ahead of more male-oriented sports like boxing and basketball despite the presence of NBA stars. Boxing—which gave Americans Olympic heroes like Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard—along with wrestling, weightlifting and other sports featuring too much grunting, groaning and pain did not sit well with TV viewers. "These sports drive them away," said an NBC executive. "Women and children won't stand for it." The survey also found out that women viewers care more about people, men about the action… Lordy Tugade, Red Bull's sweet-shooting veteran, will not be traded. "The report of a trade-off is not true," said a team official. "*Intriga lang ang balita* (The news is pure intrigue)."… Billiards icon Efren "Bata" Reyes will mark his 52nd birthday on Aug. 26 in Newport, South Wales, where he will carry the Philippine colors (together with longtime partner Francisco "Django" Bustamante) in the $250,000 World Cup of Pool on Aug. 22-27. A total of 32 countries, each represented by its top two players, will be competing in the six-day series organized by Matchroom Sport. First prize is $60,000.

Murray stuns Federer in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI—ROGER FEDERER suffered his first defeat before a final for 14 months when he was stunned by rising Briton Andy Murray, 7-5, 6-4, in the second round of the Cincinnati Masters on Wednesday.

Murray, ranked a career-high 21st this week, became only the second player to beat the world number one this year as he broke the Swiss world number one's serve seven times.

It was the first time in 18 events that Federer had failed to reach a tournament final, his last defeat before a final coming against Rafael Nadal in the 2005 French Open semis.

Federer, who won the Toronto Masters Series event last week, complained his schedule was becoming too hectic.

"You've got to be a bit realistic. Winning back-to-back Masters Series, 12 matches in 13 days, it's just something impossible," Federer said.

The eight-time grand slam champion, while sorry to lose after 55 consecutive match wins on North American hardcourts, took the defeat on the chin.

"You always expect a loss once in a while," he said. "When it happens, why be disappointed? I win over 90 percent of my matches. I would love that the streaks go on and on and on, but once in a while it's also good you lose."

Murray, in his third tournament under the tutelage of new coach Brad Gilbert, hoped he could build on the victory.

"Obviously this was pretty special—I wasn't expecting it to happen today," the 19-year-old Scot told British television.

Murray now faces Robby Ginepri in the third round after the American 15th seed eclipsed Russia's Dmitry Tursunov 6-3 6-4.

World number two Nadal, however, sauntered into the third round and a match against Germany's Tommy Haas after a 6-4 6-3 victory over Korea's Hyung-Taik Lee.

Former French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero inflicted a 6-2 6-4 defeat against American James Blake. *Reuters*

ANDY Murray: Unexpected win AP

Tierro trips Australian, gains 3rd round

FILIPINO PATRICK JOHN TIERRO downed Australian Anthony Tuong, 6-2, 6-3, yesterday to reach the third round of the $10,000 Indonesia Futures 3 at the Sario Tennis court in Manado, Indonesia.

The fifth-seeded Tierro, a member of the Philippine Davis Cup team, will next meet Taiwanese Tsung Hua Yang, who scored a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Indonesian Agus Bagung Dewantoro.

Hong Kong Davis Cupper Yu Hiu Tung also made it to the next round after top seed and three-time champion Takahiro Terachi of Japan retired due to injury in the first set. The score was 4-1 in favor of Yu.

The unseeded Yu will take on sixth seed Elbert Sie of Indonesia, who rallied past Japanese Kento Takeuchi, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2.

Seventh seed Prima Simpatiaji of Indonesia and No. 8 Korean Chung Seong-Yoon were likewise ousted.

Simpatiaji lost to compatriot Bonit Wiryawan, 6-2, 7-5, while Chung bowed to Taiwanese Hsieh Wang Cheng, 5-2 (ret.).

Wiryawan will meet fourth seed Korean Kim Dong Hyun, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Japanese Tsubasa Morizane while Hsieh will face third seed Suwandi Suwandi of Indonesia, a 6-4, 6-4 winner over Japanese Kenichiro Nakahara.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Silang Water District (SWD) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting interested manufacturers / suppliers / distributors / dealers to submit their bids for the Supply of uPVC Pipes that comply with the specifications listed in the Bid Form and subject to the conditions stated in the Bid documents.

Interested bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years, with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check or screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on September 1, 2006 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Interested Bidders may obtain copies of bid documents from the BAC Secretariat Silang Water District – Annex Administration Bldg., E. Gonzales St., Silang, Cavite, upon payment of Six Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P6,500.00) per set, which is non-refundable.

Interested bidders shall submit their eligibility requirements and bids on or before September 13, 2006 at 12:00 o'clock in the afternoon in Silang Water District Annex Building. The same shall be opened on the same day at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon in the same place.

The Approved Budget for this Contract is Php 13,140,000.00.

All written and verbal communications and transactions regarding the bidding process shall be forwarded to the Bids and Awards Committee of Silang Water District located at the above mentioned address, with Telephone No. (046) 4142175 and Facsimile No. (046) 4140886.

The Silang Water District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ALBERTO L. RESURRECCION
BAC-Chairman
Silang Water District

(PDI – August 18 & 25, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of New Lucena
Province of Iloilo

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: August 18, 2006
Contract ID No.: SP-094-IN-01
World Bank Loan N°: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the *Construction and Completion of Two (2) Storey- 18 Classrooms School Bldg*. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*.
2. The *Municipality of New Lucena, Iloilo* invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the *Construction and Completion of Two (2) Storey - 18 Classrooms School Bldg. of the New Lucena National Comprehensive High School located at Brgy. Poblacion, New Lucena, Iloilo. The total floor area is 1,512 sq.m.*
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting *August 18, to September 19, 2006* during office hours from *8:00 AM to 5:00 PM* at the *BAC Secretariat Office/ Office of the General Services, Municipality of New Lucena, Iloilo* upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (Php 3,500.00)* or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of *ninety (90) days* after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of *Two Hundred Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 240,000.00)* in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the *Office of the BAC Secretariat/ General Services Office* on or before *9:30 AM on September 19, 2006* at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The *Estimated Project Cost (EPC)* of the subproject is *Nine Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Three & 66/100 (Php 9,350,483.66) Pesos.*
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at *9:30 AM, September 5, 2006* at the *SB Session Hall, 2nd Floor, Municipal Bldg., New Lucena, Iloilo.*

(Sgd.) ENGR. SOTERO F. LOMIGO, JR.
BAC Chairman

Chuansu lead longest drive qualifiers

JOVANNI CHUANSU POSTED THE LONGEST DRIVE OF 258 YARDS IN THE men's regular category of the Dunlop Longest Drive Challenge qualifying held last Aug. 12 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club. Chuansu advanced to the grand finals together with Vinice Godio (women, 188 yards), Jaime Fernandez (men's seniors 50 years and above, 243), and Miguel Arevalo (juniors 17-and-below, 207).

Lear blows Asia-Pacific title bid by TKO

PRAJUAP KIRIKAN, THAILAND—FILIPINO JOHNNY LEAR FAILED IN HIS BID to wrest the vacant WBO Asia Pacific bantam title Wednesday, losing by a fourth round technical knockout to former world champ Ratanachai Sor Vorapin in Ban Pak Klong Beach here. Vorapin downed Lear with a big left in the second round and scored another knockdown in the fourth. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Do-or-die tiff for Altas, Bombers

IT'S A NO-TOMORROW MATCH FOR THREE TEAMS WHILE THE fourth squad tries to play the role of spoiler as the schools with the worst records mix it up today in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

With identical 3-8 slates, Jose Rizal and Perpetual Help clash for the right to stay in the hunt for the fourth and last Final Four berth at 4 p.m.

San Sebastian, also at 3-8, can't afford to lose when they tangle with the doormat St. Benilde at 2 p.m.

Mapua seems to have a lock on the remaining semifinal berth with its 6-5 record.

As things stand, the Cardinals can lose their three remaining games and still qualify outright, unless one of the 3-8 teams matches Mapua's six-win card by winning its last three outings.

Already in the semifinals are San Beda and Letran, both 10-1, and Philippine Christian which is running third at 8-3.

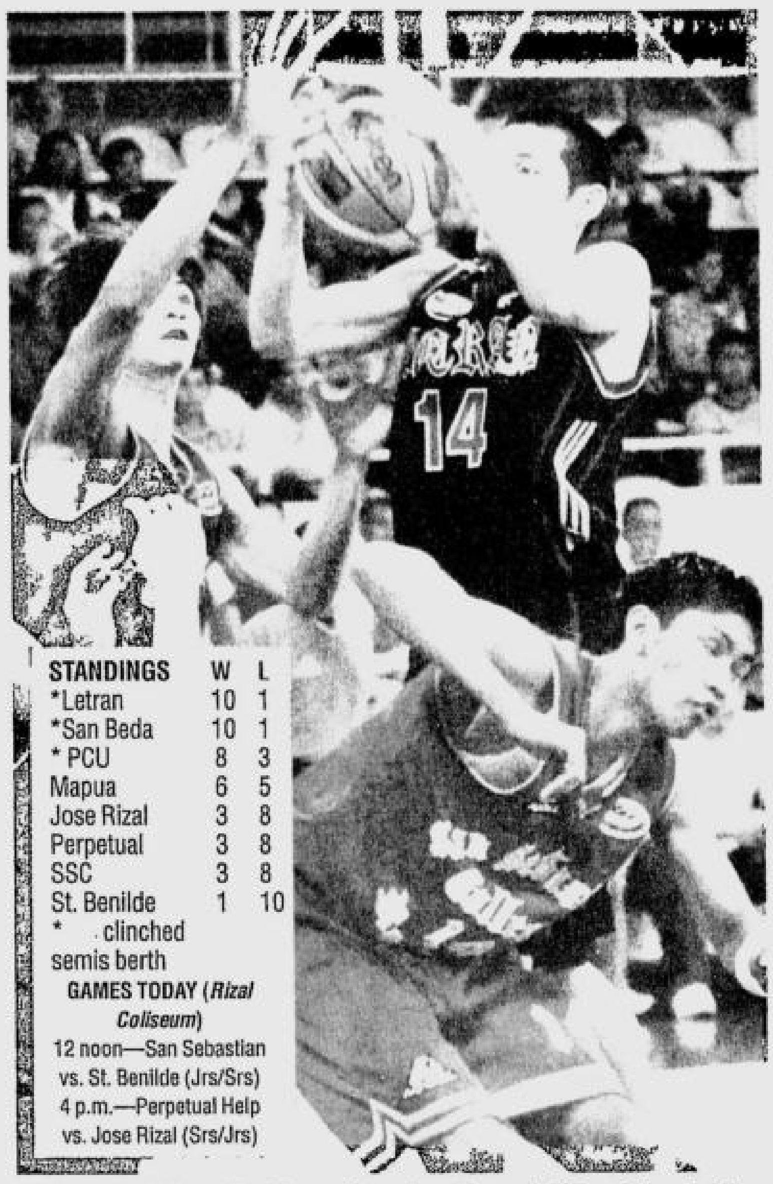
However, they cannot afford to relax since the top two slots, which will be rewarded with twice-to-beat incentives in the Final Four, have yet to be decided.

The Blazers, this year's hosts but who are a mere shadow of the 2000 champion team, will enter the game minus the pressure that is expected to bear heavily on the Stags, who are desperate to end a four-game losing spell.

St. Benilde has lost its last eight assignments and is raring to avenge its 89-85 loss to San Sebastian in the first round.

The Altas-Bombers tussle is an even match.

The Cardinals' last three games are against Letran on Aug. 23, San Beda on Aug. 30 and PCU on Sept. 6. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



STANDINGS	W	L
*Letran	10	1
*San Beda	10	1
* PCU	8	3
Mapua	6	5
Jose Rizal	3	8
Perpetual	3	8
SSC	3	8
St. Benilde	1	10

* clinched semis berth

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)

12 noon—San Sebastian vs. St. Benilde (Jrs/Srs)

4 p.m.—Perpetual Help vs. Jose Rizal (Srs/Jrs)

LETRAN'S Michael Realista collars the rebound off San Sebastian's Dave Najorda and Jason Ballesteros in Wednesday's game. RYAN LIM

McGrady to hit town for T-Mac 1 launch

THE HOUSTON ROCKETS' Tracy McGrady, better known to fans as "T-Mac," has returned to Asia for a four-city tour.

One of the most dynamic basketball stars to play in the National Basketball Association and the only lifetime Adidas endorser, McGrady is making Manila his third stop in a tour that will also take him to Seoul, Guangzhou and Hong Kong to promote the sport and his T-MAC 1 Limited Edition shoes.

McGrady's natural athletic ability was already evident at a young age and he rose through the ranks to become one of the NBA's most bankable stars.

Famous for his cunning moves, sly crossover dribbles, and incredible ability to create plays off screen, McGrady has become a *bona fide* phenomenon on and off the basketball court.

His NBA exploits stirred such great attention that Adidas signed an unprecedented lifetime partnership with him.

T-Mac's 2006 visit to Manila will feature community events including basketball clinics, celebrity all-star games with Filipino pros, and mall visits.

A special focus for T-Mac on this visit will be telling the story of how "Impossible is Nothing"—the Adidas battlecry—has been more than a tagline in his life and an ethos that has driven him to success.

While in Manila, McGrady will launch his highly anticipated Limited Edition T-MAC 1 Adidas shoes. The original T-MAC shoe was launched in 2000, and the latest edition is set to further push the boundaries of conventional basketball footwear. It brings together Adidas technology and performance components and revolutionary design.

TRACY McGrady shows his state-of-the-art T-MAC 1.

The original was designed and engineered to T-Mac's meticulous requirements, and the T-MAC 1 Limited Edition maintains this tradition.

Basketball fanatics will be able to see McGrady at the SM Mall of Asia's Music Hall at 5 p.m. on Aug. 28 and at the Ayala Malls Glorietta at 11 a.m. on Aug. 29.

The T-MAC range is another example of an innovative sporting product created by Adidas in collaboration with a successful athlete. Over the past 50 years such athletes have included NBA legends Jerry West, Oscar Robertson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, as well as today's NBA superstars Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett.

The Limited Edition Pure White T-MAC 1 will be available in the Philippines starting Aug. 21 at Adidas concept stores at Glorietta, Rockwell, Toby's Mall of Asia and at the SM Mall of Asia.

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Reyes keeps hefty Cadet kart lead

JACO REYES OF BIREL MOTORSPORTS OVERcame a determined rally by Eugene Michael Okuda of M&M Racing in the final 10 laps recently at the EKart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The 10-year-old Reyes foiled all attempts by Okuda to wrest the front in the sixth leg of the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series. He swept all three heats to earn 100 points for the day and firm up his grip of solo leadership with 336 points in the Cadet 60 Novice class.

Reyes finished the eight-lap race in 11 minutes and 46.718 seconds or just 0.091 of a second ahead of Okuda, who stayed second overall with 263 points, gaining only 58 points for the day.

Christian Gaddi of Jet Racing claimed third place while Tonyo Carcel of the Cebu Racing Group and Vei-AR Suba of Jet Racing finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

Paco Rodriguez of the Cebu Racing Group and Joey Orduna of Tuason Racing also won.

Rodriguez clinched his second straight win in the 22-lap ROK Junior class race in 13 minutes and 4.177, or just 1.402 seconds ahead of Tuason Racing's Juha Turalba. Roby Benito took third place, Javy Benitez was fourth and Vencer John Suba fifth.

Orduna turned back favorites Renz Pacoguin and Franco Reyes to top the Mini-ROK class.

He moved up to second overall with 310 points or just 65 points shy of leader Pazcoguin.

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Pasay City
INVITATION TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following:

	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
1.	CY 2007 Canteen Concessioning & Catering Services		(consumption basis)	Php 300.00
2.	CY 2007 Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment & supervision of Water Treatment Program for 3-360 TR Cooling Towers	lot	Php 240,000.00/yr	200.00
3.	CY 2007 Corporate Health Program (HMO)		Php 15,500,000.00/yr	200.00
4.	CY 2007 General Housekeeping & Other Related Services	lot	Php 15,500,000.00/yr	200.00
5.	CY 2007 Hauling & Disposal of Garbage using a compactor garbage truck with at least 10 cubic meter capacity	lot	Php 168,000.00/yr	200.00
6.	CY 2007 Internet Subscription	lot	Php 1,500,000.00/yr	200.00
7.	CY 2007 Supply of labor, materials & equipment for total quality pest control	lot	Php 180,000.00/yr	200.00
8.	CY 2007 Hardware Maintenance & Computer & Peripherals		Php 1,400,000.00/yr	200.00
9.	CY 2007 Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment & supervision of Preventive Maintenance for 3-360TR York Chillers	lot	Php 300,000.00/yr	200.00
10.	CY 2007 Rental of 62 units Photocopying Machines	lot	Php 1.50/cpy	200.00
11.	CY 2007 Rental of Nine (9) units Drinking Fountains	lot	Php 172,800.00/yr	200.00
12.	CY 2007 Rental of three (3) Shuttle Buses	lot	Php 1,950,000.00/yr	200.00
13.	CY 2007 Supply, delivery, installation, checkup, maintenance & refilling of 130 units Sanitizers & 27 units Automatic Air Fresheners (aerosols or spray type)	lot	Php 260,000.00/yr	200.00
14.	CY 2007 Subscription to Cable TV (CaTV)	lot	Php 600,000.00/yr	200.00
15.	CY 2007 Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines		Php 1,400,000.00/yr	200.00
16.	CY 2007 Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews		Php 170,000.00/yr	200.00
17.	CY 2007 Supply of Flowers		Php 400,000.00/yr	200.00
18.	CY 2007 Supply of Gasoline, Diesel, Fuel Oil, accessories & related products	lot	(consumption basis)	200.00
19.	Supply of labor & materials for the repair & renovation of 20 common comfort rooms at the Senate	lot	Php 4,600,000.00	500.00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM, August 14-17 & 21-24, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. Interested bidders will be advised of the schedule of pre-bidding conference/s by fax. Said meetings will be held at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ALTERNATIVE BIDS SHALL BE REJECTED.

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org., Senate website at www.senate.gov.ph and posted at 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For inquiry, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro)

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO 1) REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; 2) REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; 3) CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD; 4) WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN; and/or 5) ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. ANY DECISION MADE BY THE SENATE IS FINAL AND EXECUTORY.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SAID PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING PROCESS NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 12 & 18 2006)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ MRT-7 project gets a move-on /B2

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BUSINESS

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Gov't posted ₱17-B budget deficit in July

₱73.7-B revenue was lower than ₱90.7B in reported expenditures

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INCURRED A BUDGET deficit of P17 billion in July, ending three consecutive months of surpluses.

However, the government is confident that it can trim the deficit down to its full-year target of P125 billion, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday said.

Government revenue for July was P73.7 billion, against expenditures of P90.7 billion, he said.

The deficit in July brought the budget gap for the first seven months of the year to P544.7 billion. The figure is equivalent to only 39 percent of the P125 billion full-year deficit limit set by fiscal authorities for 2006.

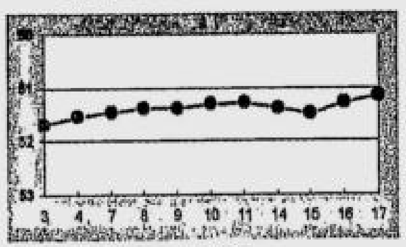
"We will continue to work hard in pursuing our fiscal reforms and tax administration measures that will enable us to achieve a balanced budget by the end of 2008," Teves said in a press conference yesterday.

Of the P73.7 billion collected in July, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) accounted for P48.9 billion. The revenue agency's contribution in July was actually P5.2 bil-

GOV'T/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST

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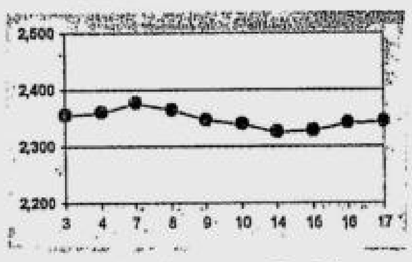
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 17, 2006

GOLD: $630.70-631.20
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 17, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end nearly flat

STOCKS YESTERDAY CLOSED nearly flat, with investor interest limited to only a few stocks.

Gains by Manila Electric, or Meralco, and Ayala Land were offset by profit taking in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 2.45 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,345.96, after rising 0.6 percent Wednesday.

Meralco B, open to foreign and local investors, was up 5.1 percent at P26 on heavy volume, with 2.38 million shares traded.

STOCKS/B2

Adapt or perish: Travel firms face harsh reality

By Daxim L. Lucas

(Second of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

EVEN ESTABLISHED PLAYERS, SUCH AS FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines, are feeling the effects of expensive fuel.

PAL saw a 15-percent increase in revenue during its last fiscal year, but the airline also reported a 14-percent increase in the cost of flying operations and maintenance.

According to PAL president Jaime J. Bautista, the airline in recent months has been feeling the effects that the high cost of fuel has had on travelers.

"It affects travelers because people reduce their travel as cost rises," Bautista said in a recent interview.

Like its rival Cebu Pacific, PAL offers discounted airfare to clients who book months in advance, although it tries to keep the program quiet to maintain its premium pricing niche. Its sister firm Air Philippines has also dabbled with low-fare schemes.

Feeling the pinch

The schemes have allowed the airline to post a 63-percent increase in its net income last year from $17.6 million to $28.7 million on the back of increased passenger traffic.

Even the country's largest shipping lines are feeling the pinch.

According to Aboitiz Transport System spokesperson Judd Salas, the company is trying to revive interest in sea travel by offering fare discounts for travel during the lean months.

The operator of the SuperFerry passenger liner fleet said that aside from innovative marketing promotional activities, the company has had to "review operations to improve efficiencies in all sectors."

Challenged

"Currently, our top line is very challenged so we need to keep our operating costs down," Salas said. "But we do this without sacrificing safety and security."

The competition in the travel industry has intensified to a point such that maritime firms, which used to have a stranglehold on budget-conscious travelers, are now feeling the heat from the airline sector.

ADAPT/B2

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MRT-7 project gets a move-on

Neda panel clears project proponent's proposal

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELopment Authority's Investment Coordinating Committee (NEDA-ICC) has cleared the draft contract for the proposed Line 7 of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) after the project's proponent, Universal LRT Corp. Ltd. (ULC), agreed to make the construction and operation of MRT-7 "deficit-neutral."

The "deficit-neutral" clause is meant to ensure that the government will not bear the brunt of the risks that may be encountered in the construction of the MRT-7 project.

And where the railway runs through, ULC, as operator, will also settle the real estate taxes with the local government units concerned.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri said that, with the clearance in place, the Department of Transportation and Communications may publish an invitation for challengers to submit their own proposals.

ULC has submitted a $1.2-billion bid for the project and concession covering 25 years. Should there be no challengers for a certain period of time after the invitation is issued, the government will finalize a contract with the original proponent.

Under the contract, the government will advance to ULC some $130 million for 10 years—from the start of the railway construction—$15 million for the 11th until the 15th year, and $10 million for the 16th up to the 18th year. But these advances will return to state coffers once the MRT-7 line begins operations.

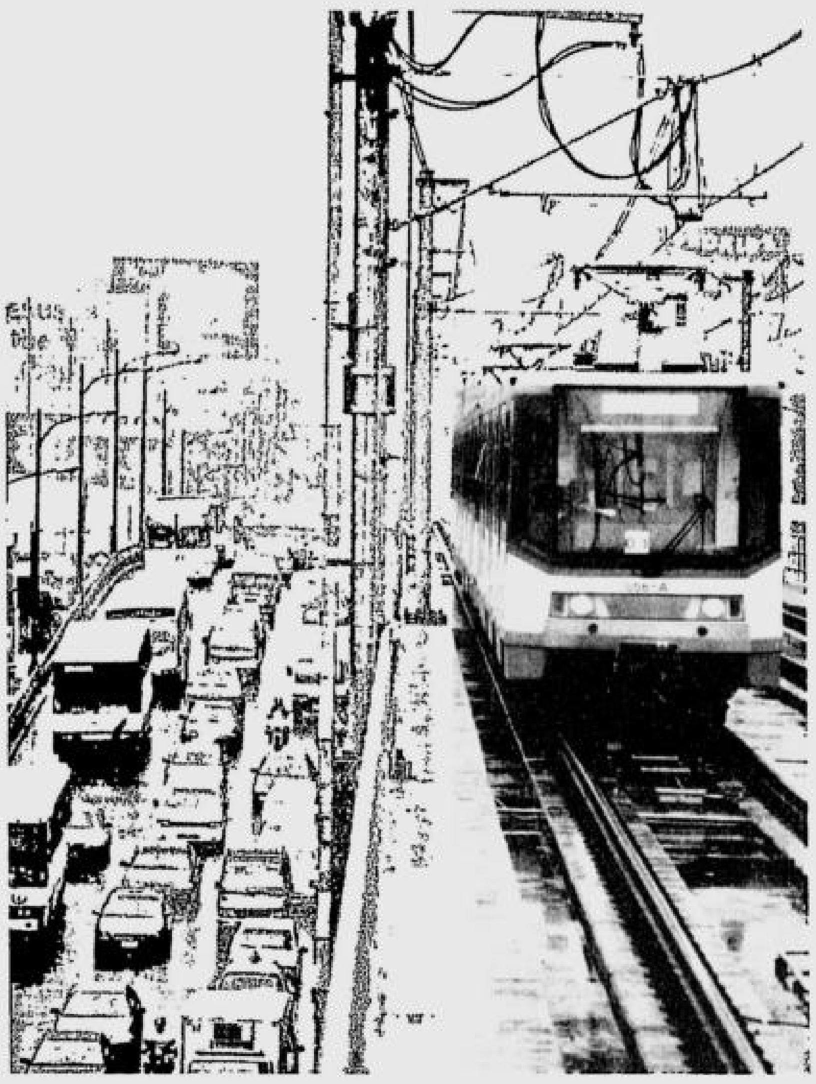
ULC is a consortium composed of Alstom Transportation of France, the world's second-largest transportation system provider; Alstom Signalling of the United States; Redfort Assets Ltd, representing SM Investment Corp. and PentaCapital Management Corp., the Merlin Pacific Capital Inc. Group; Earth Tech, a member of the Tyco International Group of the US; Engineering Equipment Inc., a member of the Yuchengo Group of companies; tcgi Engineers; and EL International Holdings Group, as well as a group of Israeli investors.

Government revenue from the MRT-7 will come from development taxes of the railway's 194-hectare real estate component, lease of commercial spaces, and fare earnings. As part of the deficit-neutral clause, ULC agreed to lower its internal rate of return to 11.9 percent from 16.9 percent. The lower rate of return means ULC will bear the financial losses should passenger volume—and consequently, revenues—decline.

The Neda-ICC resolution also specified that a $1.9-billion performance bond be included in the terms of reference for the project—another way to ensure that the proponent would commit to making the project viable. ULC will assume risks on construction, operation, and maintenance of MRT-7.

The result of the final phase of the bidding process will be subject to the review and approval of the Neda board.

When completed, MRT-7 would run the length of Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, connecting North Avenue to Tala in Novaliches.



AN MRT train plies the length of Edsa. When completed, the new MRT-7 line will connect Novaliches to North Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRER PHOTO

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In Asia, income inequality seen to widen

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ECONOMIES IN ASIA AND THE PAcific have seen a general trend of growth amid expansion of global trade, but this has had little impact on poverty reduction as inequality of income among sectors of populations widen, according to the United Nations Development Program.

Sri Lanka-based Manuel Montes, coordinator for Asia Trade and Investment Initiative of UNDP's regional center in Colombo, said that while trade has engendered economic development, it also brought new risks such as the further marginalization of the poorest countries in the region, as well as undermining the most vulnerable communities.

Montes said that between 1990 and 2003, gross domestic outputs in East Asia and the Pacific region grew by 7.6 percent, while South Asia rose 5.4 percent, or about twice the growth rate of other regions in the world.

"Much of this regional growth occurred during steady trade liberalization, when average tariff rates fell significantly and the region's share of imports and exports in world trade increased steadily," the economist said.

But at the same time, Montes said Asia Pacific was still home to some 500 million people who have no secure supply of food—about two-thirds of all such people in the world.

"The challenge is to build a trading regime that is not just more balanced and equitable, but also actively combats poverty and promotes human development," Montes said.

Human development refers to expanding people's choices and enabling them to live longer and healthier.

HD is reckoned in terms of whether people are well-nourished and have access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and shelter, and whether they are provided equal opportunities to participate in economic activity through education and decent work.

People's enjoyment of freedom to exercise choices and fulfill their potential as persons are also considered.

"Asia and the Pacific have embraced free trade, but free trade cannot embrace the poor without determined action on the parts of governments," Montes said. "This cannot be left only to the market to decide."

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Adapt or perish ...

From page B1

"The economic conditions have affected the entire transportation industry and, as a result, the whole market is down," Salas said. "However, we are confident that with the eventual improvement of the economy, the market will right itself soon, and we have equipped ourselves to take advantage of this upswing."

Collateral damage

While the effects of high fuel costs are universal, some sectors are suffering more than the others.

In particular, travel agencies are bearing the brunt of airlines' drive to improve efficiency amid rising costs.

In an interview, Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) president Jose C. Clemente III admitted that his industry was reeling from the effects of expensive fuel.

"We have seen better times," he said in an interview.

Clemente, who is also the general manager of Rajah Tours Philippines Inc., explained that airlines have reduced commissions to travel agents as part of their cost-cutting measures.

"They used to pay us a commission of 10 percent," he said. "Now it's down to 7, 6 or even 5 percent."

Out of business

Lower commissions mean that travel agencies now have to compete in terms of price and volume, departing from the old practice of charging a premium for service—a reality that has forced many travel agents out of business.

"Many have already closed down, leaving behind unpaid liabilities." the PTAA chief said.

The irony of the situation is that travel agencies are experiencing difficult times amid a steady demand for travel.

"There is not much change in terms of passenger traffic," he said, noting that volumes have remained high, in part because of airlines' cutthroat competition.

Clemente said this was especially true for domestic travel where more and more budget-conscious travelers are braving the rainy season to visit resort destinations.

Better for consumers

This phenomenon is exactly why Cebu Pacific launched its low-fares promo with inaugural offers to destinations like Kalibo, Tagbilaran and Dumaguete—destinations which may spark the interest of less affluent tourists during the off-peak season.

Despite this, the PTAA chief is not complaining.

"Competition is very healthy," he said. "There are more choices now, and this is better for consumers."

He admitted, however, that the travel industry will have to be on its toes to weather the twin effects of competition and high fuel costs.

"The key for everyone is to improve efficiency," Clemente said. "Only those who can adapt to the environment will survive."

Stocks ...

From page B1

Meralco A, open only to local investors, was unchanged at P16.25.

Meralco was expected to suffer a sell-off after the Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected its plea to raise power generation charges by 4.2 percent, as approved by government regulators in 2004. The court also ordered Meralco to refund customers.

"It seems foreign fund managers were just waiting for that court decision and are now buying up the stock," said DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila.

Ayala Land rose 1.9 percent to P13.50 as investors took positions ahead of an announcement on a joint undertaking with its parent, conglomerate Ayala Corp., which was up 0.6 percent at P422.50.

The market advance, however, wasn't broad based. PLDT lost 1.5 percent to end at P1,975.

Gainers led decliners 57 to 33, while 49 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

Gov't ...

From page B1

lion short of its P54.11-billion target for the month.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said the shortfall was due to the weak collection of excise tax on so-called sin products—alcohol and cigarettes—and the decline in taxable income of taxpayers.

"Tax collection is a function of how much people are making," Buñag yesterday said during a press conference. "It's not only dependent on the BIR's [collection efficiency]. You have to take into account the performance of the entire economy."

Buñag said the BIR, the government's biggest revenue source, would step up the implementation of existing measures to shore up the revenue agency's tax collection. The measures include the use of computerized tax audit and third-party information in verifying the accuracy of tax remittances.

Another program is the tax compliance verification drive (TCVD), where BIR personnel would visit business establishments to check on their level of tax compliance.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) collected P16.4 billion in duties, excise tax and value-added tax on imported goods. The amount was higher than its July collection target of P15.436 billion.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the BOC's overperformance was due to the revenue enhancement measures set in place. One is the reshuffling of chief collectors in the BOC's ports nationwide.

Under the reshuffle, Morales said, better performing collectors were assigned to bigger ports, he said.

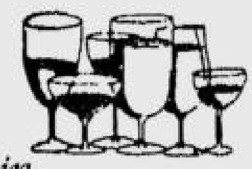
Revenue collection by the Bureau of the Treasury stood at P5 billion. The BTr is tasked with collecting the national government's dividends from state-owned firms.

Other government offices turned in P3.4 billion in revenues, official government data showed.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the government's fiscal condition has been welcomed by the market, which also expects the deficit to be reduced even further below the official target of P125 billion.

Makati Med as patient

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

PLDT CHAIR MANUEL V. PANGILINAN HAS successfully installed his protégé, former GMA deputy executive secretary Richard Ferrer, as the new president of the financially strapped Makati Medical Center.

According to the grapevine, MVP and Ferrer presided over a board meeting earlier this week and were briefed on the facility's finances and plans.

True enough, the country's premier hospital has already slid into a financial ICU; aside from the P1.5 billion in debts that need to be restructured, Makati Med needs to raise P500 million more, on top of the P250 million the present shareholders, mainly doctors, had already contributed. Still, the fresh money is barely enough to cover the construction of a seven-story diagnostic and treatment center that Makati Med plans to build on the present doctors' parking lot to keep the hospital from losing patients to the newer Asian Hospital, Medical City and St. Luke's.

According to the grapevine, the P770-million construction budget does not cover the various dollar-denominated medical equipment that would be installed in each key department.

North Harbor policy war

KEY GMA economic managers are seeking to reverse a controversial Philippine Ports Authority decision to allow only a single operator to handle cargo operations in Manila's North Harbor.

According to the grapevine, Secretaries Romulo Neri and Peter Favila, with the support of key business leaders, are determined to open up the cargo handling operations to at least three operators so as to promote competition.

Neri and Favila have even tapped an advocacy team to help push their proposal to the key publics through the media.

Currently, seven operators, mainly domestic shipping companies, provide disparate cargo handling operations in the country's premier port area.

Money-go-round

- THE SUPREME Court threw out a P12-million damage claim being sought by stockbroker Edgardo Guevara against BPI Securities, where he once served as president.

BPI and Guevara have been in litigation, both here and in the United States, for more than a decade now, over a botched lending operation approved during Guevara's watch.

- THE SON of Asian Hospital medical director Jorge Garcia, Guilllermo Jorge "Joel" Garcia, is the latest casualty in the takeover of the Thai group Bumrungrad of the Alabang facility.

Garcia's son has resigned as chief information officer of the medical center, following the bitter departure of chief financial officer Robert Suarez.

Heard through the grapevine

RICKY Silverio and his half-brother Dante have now teamed up to start a fresh round of suits against their father, San Rafael (Bulacan) Mayor Ricardo Silverio Sr., and his second wife, Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio. The objective: The Silverio house in Urdaneta Village.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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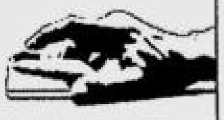

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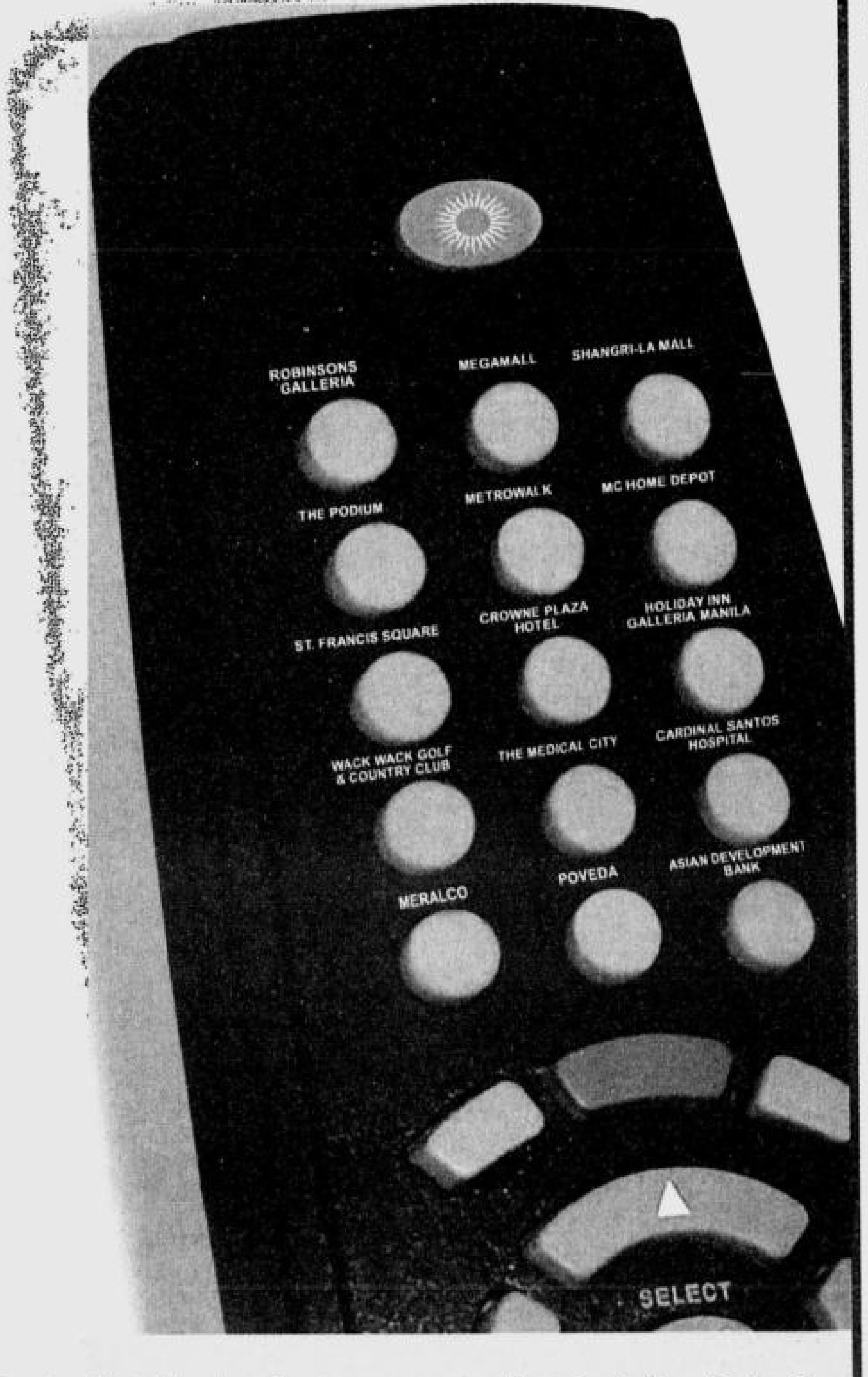

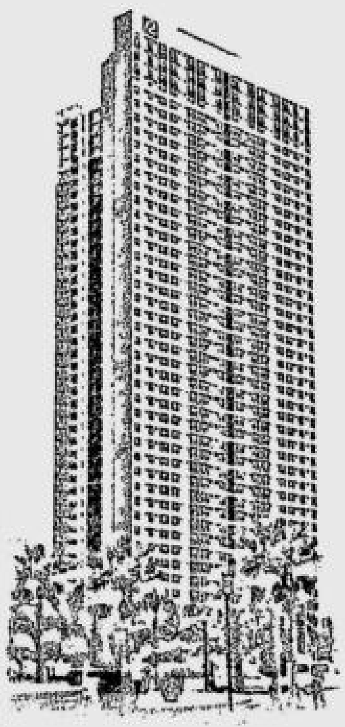

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Ayala Corp., ALI investing $75M in HK-based equity fund

Exploring new growth avenues in overseas markets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA CORP. AND ITS PROPERTY arm, Ayala Land Inc., said they would jointly invest up to $75 million in a new private equity fund that will venture into the fast growing Asian property markets.

In a joint statement, Ayala Corp. and ALI said the equity fund would be managed by Hong Kong-based ARCH Capital Management Co. Ltd., whose initial investment targets were China, India and Thailand.

Out of the $75-million investment, Ayala Corp. will contribute $50 million while ALI will shell out the balance of $25 million.

The equity fund—with a projected size of $200 million—will be launched in September this year. Of the total size, $125 million will be raised from third party investors.

Ayala Corp. will make investments in ARCH Capital through Ayala International Pte. Ltd. (AIPL), which is already into property investments in Asia and the United States.

ARCH Capital is registered and based in Hong Kong, and is managed by Richard (Wah-Chuk) Yue, who has more than 17 years of experience in investing in Asian real estate projects. It specializes in managing private equity funds in Asia.

ALI's participation in the fund will allow it to actively explore new growth avenues overseas, company president Jaime Ayala said.

"The potential equity returns on the fund's investments present a significant opportunity for material, long-term growth for the company outside of domestic growth channels," he said.

Ayala added that "ALI's participation in the fund will create new revenue streams for the company in the form of fees for development-related services. The fund presents an ideal opportunity to leverage ALI's core skills and extensive development experience."

AIPL, Ayala's vehicle for international property investments, has been actively investing in real estate projects particularly in Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia since 1995. Total investments made over that period exceeded $200 million.

AIPL president Charles Cosgrove said the investment would boost the Ayala Group's plans to expand into Asia.

"AIPL's 10-year record of partnering in markets across Asia and ALI's property development skills complement ARCH Capital's specialized deal sourcing and structuring abilities, particularly in China," Cosgove said.

The combined experience of ALI, AIPL and Yue brings significant value to the fund and offers investors a unique proposition: An Asian company managed by Asian business professionals, with a strong heritage in the property markets across the region and a deep knowledge of Asian cultures.

ARCH Capital plans to start formal marketing efforts to get more investors in the last quarter of the current year.

Transco seeks to collect ₱7B from Meralco

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORP. has asked Manila Electric Co., the country's largest private electricity distribution company, to immediately pay more than P7 billion that it owes the state firm.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said the state firm had already sent its demand letter to Meralco last June, and it expected to hear from the power distributor soon.

"We've sent the demand letter and we're waiting to hear from them now. We did the pro-forma thing and we expect they will negotiate on the final amount," he said.

Ortiz, however, said that Transco was open to discussions on restructuring the substantial debt.

According to Transco's 2005 annual report, Meralco owes it almost P6.4 billion, 67 percent of which, or close to P4.3 billion, was related to Meralco's contract shortfall with the National Power Corp. from Sept. 26, 2002 to Oct. 25, 2004.

Meralco's contract shortfall formed part of a settlement agreement that the distribution utility had to enter into with Napocor, in relation to a 10-year supply deal that lapsed in 2004.

The settlement agreement is pending approval at the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Since Meralco's arrears to Transco had remained unpaid these past years, Ortiz said the interest had increased, bringing the Lopez-led firm's payables to more than P7 billion.

Despite this, Ortiz expressed confidence that Meralco would settle these debts soon, considering its improving cash flow situation.

"They're in better financial shape now than three years ago. I expect that they will settle and we can close the issue soon. The fact that they want to acquire our sub-transmission assets means that they have cash," he said.

He related that Meralco had recently reopened discussions with Transco for the acquisition of sub-transmission assets located within its franchise area.

Gov't to rebid Masinloc not later than 1st quarter of '07

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REBID THE 600-megawatt Masinloc coal power plant, in a package complete with a power supply contract, not later than the first quarter of next year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who is also chair of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) board, said incorporating in the package a supply contract was one of the measures being considered to make the power plant more attractive to buyers.

Teves said a strategy that could be pursued was to find a buyer of the power to be generated by the plant.

The government earlier terminated the Masinloc contract that was awarded to winning bidder YNN Pacific Consortium. This was due to YNN's failure to remit the $227.54 million in down payment despite the extension of the deadline set by the government.

A Malaysian investor decided not to infuse the needed funds into YNN when the latter failed to secure a supply contract that would guarantee a market for Masinloc's output.

Asked about the legality of providing a supply contract to the winning bidder, National Power Corp. president Cyril del Caller said such a move would not violate any law.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), he said, prohibited the adoption of a purchased power agreement (PPA), which would require the government to pay for the entire electricity production of an independent power producer, but not the provision of a supply contract for a plant like Masinloc.

"We have learned from our experience with Masinloc. We are still hopeful we can achieve something within the year or not later than the first quarter of next year," Teves told reporters in a press conference yesterday.

The Masinloc plant, located in Zambales, was auctioned off in December 2004. YNN won the bidding with an offer of $561.74 million, much higher than the $274.85-million bid submitted by Lopez-owned First Generation Holdings.

Bayantel sees higher revenue

By Riza T. Olchondra

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC. HAS raised its revenue target for this year to P5.8 billion from the earlier projection of P5.4 billion.

The company posted P5.09 billion in revenue last year.

BayanTel chief executive consultant Tunde Fafunwa said the company's outlook for the year improved due to the expected stronger second half revenue from its data business.

Fafunwa said Bayantel had been continuously upgrading its facilities to expand capacity. The upgrade was estimated to cost P1.3 billion a year.

He also noted that the company's rehabilitation program remained on course with a total of P1.4 billion in loans and interest charges already paid to creditors since the program was started in 2004.

These developments, he said, showed that the company was on the right track to sustaining its momentum for growth. "Profitability, though, remains a daunting challenge for the organization as we continue to operate under a rehabilitation program."

He said BayanTel was looking at a strong second half from its data business, including DSL and Internet services. As of July, revenue from its Internet services has grown 26 percent to P351 million from P277 million in the same period last year.

Fafunwa said BayanTel's expansion program was aimed at enabling the company to deliver high bandwidth and IP-based services, such as Metro Ethernet and IP-VPN, to all major commercial business districts. It also hopes to upgrade its backbone connectivity to Visayas and Mindanao to meet strong demand from the call centers and business process outsourcing companies in those areas.

In June of this year, the company paid creditors some P180 million in principal loan and interest charges.

Asean set to remove most tariffs on electronics

KUALA LUMPUR—SIX ASEAN COUNTRIES will abolish tariffs on most electronic products traded between them by next January, three years ahead of schedule, in a bid to claw back foreign investment from China and India, officials said.

Trade and Industry director Ramon Vicente Kabigting said the six countries set to accelerate the program were Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

"Because it is a priority sector, 85 percent of the products will have zero tariff next year," he told AFP.

"Eighty-five percent of the products will cross the borders freely. This will lower costs and make the products more competitive," he added.

An Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) official confirmed the move.

"Duties covered under the priority sector integration will be eliminated by January 2007," he told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Asean economic officials are meeting here ahead of next week's ministerial talks to chart the region's ambitious goal of advancing economic integration by five years to 2015.

The senior officials are preparing to brief the ministers on the status of preparations to abolish the tariffs.

Electronics is among 12 priority sectors that Asean plans to liberalize in its quest to form a regional economic community aimed at wooing back foreign investment that in recent years has been heading to China and India.

Kabigting said each country has a list of electronic goods that will enjoy zero tariffs but some have excluded finished consumer items like washing machines and air conditioners.

"It means these items will only enjoy zero tariff rates come 2010," he said.

Electronic products make up some 50 percent of total intra-Asean trade.

Kabigting said Asean was no longer a major magnet for global foreign direct investments (FDIs), having fallen under the shadow of the Asia's emerging economic giants.

"We were once where money was flowing into. It is no longer Asean but China and India," he said. *AFP*

Peso closes at 5-mo high of 51.13:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO SURGED YESTERDAY TO 51.09 before closing at a five-month high of 51.13 against the US dollar, which tumbled on prospects that the US Federal Reserve was finally ending two years of interest rate hikes.

"It's just tracking the dollar's weakness," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, treasurer at BDO Private Bank and president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines.

"Everyone's watching the interest rate moves in the United States, so when the CPI (consumer price index report) last night was not as high as expected, US treasuries rallied and the dollar weakened because the possibility of an end to the rate hike cycle is more realistic," Hilado said.

The peso, which was lifted by the dollar's weakness along with the other currencies in Asia's emerging markets, opened at 51.11 and moved between the intra-day high of 51.09 and the low of 51.17 to the US dollar.

Volume at the Philippine Dealing System reached $590.85 million.

Hilado said the peso would likely continue tracking the US dollar's movements, but could strengthen if the local stock market would draw more portfolio investments.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 17, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6	45,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	33	32.5	33	612,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54	54	53.5	54	596,400
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	1,480,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	81.5	83.5	81.5	83	41,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	38.5	38	38	455,500
Philippine National Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	12,900
Phil. Savings Bank	41.5	42	41.5	42	6,000
Philippine Trust Co.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	32,700
Security Bank Corp.	49	49	48.5	48.5	69,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	1,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.86	345,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30.5	30	30.5	6,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1630	1610	1630	420
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2005	2005	2000	2000	110
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	938,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43	43.5	43	43.5	145,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	42	42.5	41.5	42.5	1,375,100
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.5	15.5	16.25	380,900
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	26.5	24.5	26	2,379,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.7	8.9	11,650,000
Petron Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.15	4.2	3,000,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	24,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33	34	33	34	521,700
Rfm Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	430,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.75	1,251,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64.5	64	64.5	73,600
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	73.5	71.5	73.5	49,500
Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	933,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	790,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	430,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	47,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	108,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.5	0.57	0.5	0.55	180,600,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0775	0.08	0.0775	0.08	2,600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	15,000,000
Ayala Corp.	420	422.5	420	422.5	93,610
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	5	596,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.034	0.031	0.034	74,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	270,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,200,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	350,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	8,289,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.2	623,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.8	1,279,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6	6	5.9	5.9	300,000
Medco Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.19	900,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.36	690,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.016	0.013	0.015	489,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	950,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	1,090,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	9,890,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	217	216	216	25,710
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.14	25,190,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,660,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	1,424,900
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	5,000,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,380,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	2.18	2.24	2.18	2.24	5,232,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	4,910,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	8,850,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	140,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.048	0.0525	0.047	0.049	19,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.42	18,805,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.1	0.135	0.1	0.115	3,150,000
Gotesco Land. Inc.B	0.11	0.14	0.11	0.12	1,100,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	8,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	150,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	4,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.018	0.015	0.017	7,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	65,758,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.235	2,570,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.26	0.26	210,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	650,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12	12	11.75	11.75	125,800
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	4,840,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.72	1,072,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.2	8.2	8	8.1	3,868,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.0925	0.09	0.0925	700,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	17	17	17	17	35,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	114,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	6,208,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1015	1025	1010	1020	17,500
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.75	2,472,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1990	1995	1970	1975	116,390
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	6,750,000
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.021	0.015	0.021	389,100,000
Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	120,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.0525	23,100,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	9,800,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.16	1.2	1.14	1.2	346,000
Transpacific Broadband	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	110,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	34,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	101,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	10,300
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,675,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.48	1.42	1.48	2,950,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	210,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	10,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Jth Davies Holdings Inc.	16	16	16	16	5,500
Macroasia Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.06	307,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	110,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.75	5	4.75	4.95	3,142,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.8	5	4.8	4.95	1,587,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	63,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.7	655,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	5,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	689,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	201,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	167,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.25	4.4	4.2	4.25	3,023,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	5,240,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	25.5	26	25.5	26	58,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.54	0.59	0.54	0.57	6,690,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.56	600,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	130,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	30,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	50,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.22	1,216,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.26	1.28	1.24	1.24	830,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12.75	13	12.75	12.75	56,500
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	718,100

CURRENCIES

August 17, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.778574	1.000000	51.3360
Japan	Yen	0.006721	0.008633	0.4432
United Kingdom	Pound	1.475786	1.895500	97.3074
Hongkong	Dollar	0.100115	0.128588	6.6012
Switzerland	Franc	0.633347	0.813471	41.7603
Canada	Dollar	0.696398	0.894454	45.9177
Singapore	Dollar	0.494929	0.635687	32.6336
Australia	Dollar	0.598627	0.768876	39.4710
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.065292	2.652661	136.1770
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207603	0.266645	13.6885
Brunei	Dollar	0.493361	0.633673	32.5302
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020846	0.026774	1.3745
UAE	Dirham	0.211978	0.272264	13.9769
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.284400	65.9360
Argentina	Peso	0.253030	0.324992	16.6838
Brazil	Real	0.365699	0.469704	24.1127
Denmark	Kroner	0.134006	0.172117	8.8358
India	Rupee	0.016754	0.021519	1.1047
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.211569	0.271739	13.9500
Mexico	New Peso	0.072301	0.092863	4.7672
New Zealand	Dollar	0.499309	0.641313	32.9224
South Africa	Rand	0.115051	0.147772	7.5860
Korea	Won	0.000807	0.001036	0.0532
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023806	0.030576	1.5696

Give up on manufacturing sector, focus on services, economist says

Deutsche Bank's Walter cites RP's strengths

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES CAN ACCELERATE ECONOMIC growth if it will focus on its core strengths, such as services and geothermal energy, and give up on manufacturing, Deutsche Bank's chief economist said.

In a press briefing yesterday, Frankfurt-based Norbert Walter said Asia would still be the world's fastest growing economy despite an expected downturn in the United States and that the Philippines, despite its big trade volume with the US, could do well by focusing on its comparative advantages.

"One should not do what the others do. One should do what he does best. I would advise the Philippines not to compete with the manufacturing powerhouse of China. I would probably suggest to try something else," Walter said.

The visiting economist said given the country's high English language proficiency and strong ties with the United States, it would continue to do well in the services sector and become a global business process outsourcing and logistics hub.

"You could also look at energy efficiency. Look into biomass and other alternative sources of energy. You have volcanos and geothermal (energy) is too obvious to be neglected," he said.

The economist added that the country, which was likely to post a gross domestic product growth of at least 5 percent this year, could go the way of Malaysia, but reforms must take place to capture more opportunities.

He noted that the domestic economy appeared unfazed by political noise and the outlook for fiscal debt sustainability was improving.

He added that strong overseas Filipino workers were keeping the current account afloat.

Walter said OFW inflows would also continue to perk up domestic consumption and would remain as "one of the most stable factors" assuming that the strong offshore demand for Filipino labor would be sustained.

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Growth Fund - Peso	1.26980	1.28163
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2630	1.2626

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Quarantine first before inspection

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST AUGUST 16, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT the government has directed concerned agencies to cut red tape and facilitate business:

Among the agencies identified were the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

These agencies have already done laudable work in this area. But there is always room for improvement.

There is one particular procedure involving these two agencies that should be corrected immediately.

Though it cuts some red tape, correcting it will bring about two more important results: Protection of consumer health and prevention of smuggling.

An unusual procedure

I refer to the current procedure where the BOC first inspects shipments of agricultural goods that come in through the ports before turning them over to the DA's quarantine group to see if the goods meet the country's phyto-sanitary requirements.

These requirements, applied to all agricultural products, are absolutely necessary because they not only ensure that our consumers are protected against unhealthy food, they also prevent diseases carried by these products from contaminating our own agriculture products.

In the congressional hearing of the Special Committee on Globalization chaired by Representative Herminio Teves last August 9, Representative Mario Aguha said: "We are the only country in the world where customs evaluation is done before the quarantine check."

Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest farmer-fisherfolk coalition today, had previously brought this up in its meetings with Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban last May 8 and August 4.

Secretary Panganiban expressed support for the Alyansa's and DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano's recommendation of following the global practice.

But Panganiban said he needed the consent of the BOC and the Department of Finance (which supervises the BOC) to implement this procedure.

A disturbing incident

In the first quarter of 2004, the potential adverse effect of our current practice of not subjecting goods first to quarantine inspection was clearly demonstrated.

Gregorio San Diego, president of the United Broilers and Raisers Association (UBRA) and an Alyansa officer, said: "Nineteen containers of chicken parts without any phyto-sanitary permits were smuggled out. The DA inspection, being only the second step after the Customs evaluation, was bypassed. What is worse, many of these containers were never recovered."

This incident was particularly disturbing because the threat of avian flu, which can cause an epidemic in the Philippines, was already present.

Because of this scare, farm gate prices of live chicken dropped from P53 a kilo to just P37.

Considering that the break even price at that time was P48, thousands of poultry farmers suffered.

The DA said that if the procedure was reversed so that DA would inspect all agricultural products before the BOC comes in, there would have been no chance of these goods being released without the DA's knowledge.

Furthermore, the DA would be able to stop the further processing of these goods for release if they do not have the necessary phytosanitary permits.

The BOC would no longer have to carry out the other import processing steps, such as tariff and value added tax (VAT) determination.

Affected parties

The BOC is to be commended for the significant increase in its tax collection and the drop in the smuggling rate.

However, there are unscrupulous elements that are tarnishing BOC's reputation.

These people are happy with the "customs evaluation first" procedure because they can conveniently forget quarantine and smuggle the goods out.

With no DA check and balance mechanism, they can truly enrich themselves. But this comes at the high cost to consumers whose health is endangered, and farmers whose livelihoods are jeopardized.

The government also loses, since tax revenues drop because of the common technical smuggling practices of misdeclaration and underdeclaration of taxes.

Time to act

It is hoped that, as the DA and the BOC cut red tape, they likewise examine unusual procedures such as the current "customs evaluation first, quarantine later" practice.

As a general rule, we must benchmark against global standards and practices to be globally competitive in our new trade-liberalized environment.

It is presumptuous to think that, in this case, we know more than the rest of the world and therefore we should stick to our current procedure.

We have already seen the disastrous results. After too long a delay, we must now support the DA in convincing the BOC and the DOF to jointly undertake this move and follow the global practice of conducting a quarantine check first.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8522112.)

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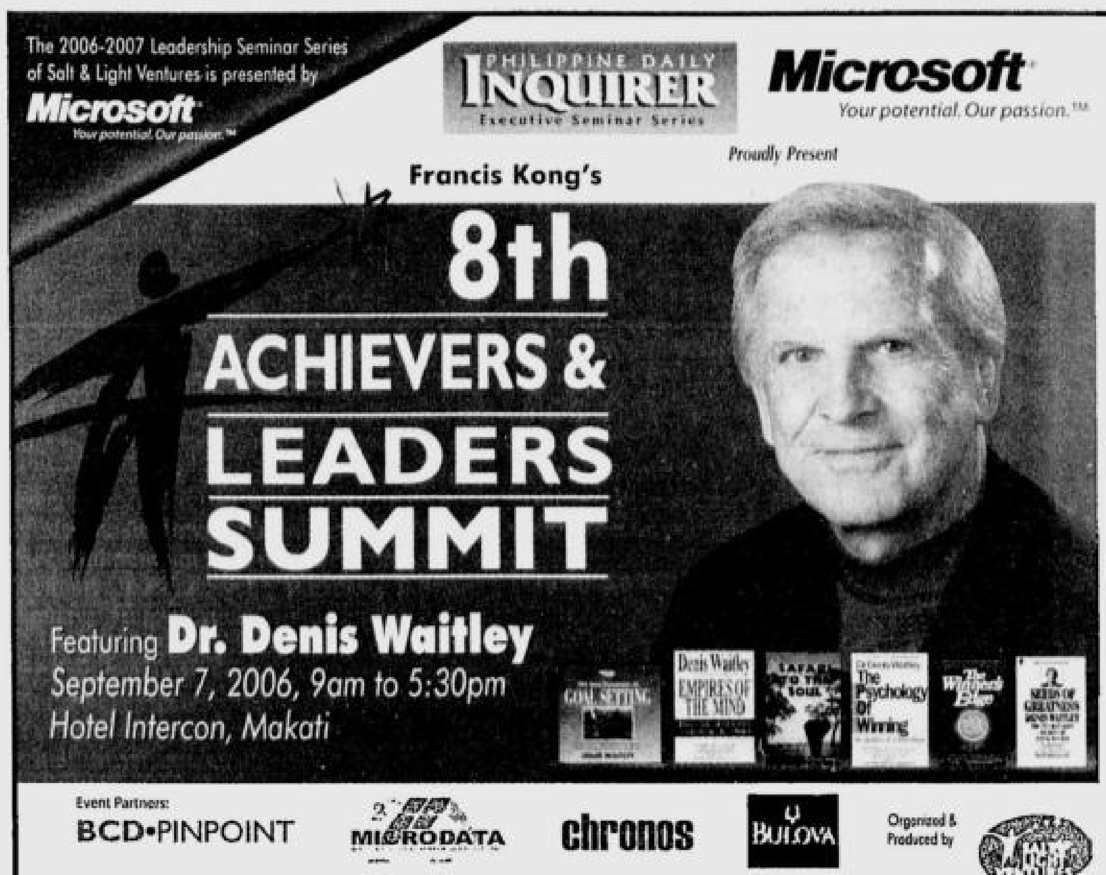

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> *"In the great scheme of things, what matters is not how long you live,*
> *but why you live, what you stand for, and what you are willing to die for."*
> *Paul Watson*

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MOURNS THE PASSING OF A NEWS TEAM WHICH FULFILLED THEIR FINAL ASSIGNMENT ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2006

ISMAEL C. CABUGAYAN
June 26, 1969 - August 13, 2006

HAZEL RECHETA-CALIMAG
March 27, 1969 –August 13, 2006

ARNEL C. GUIAO
June 1, 1964 –August 13, 2006

We have every reason to be proud of Hazel, Arnel and Ismael and we are grateful for what they have contributed to our News and Public Affairs goals of serving our people and making a difference in their lives.

Their commitment to truth and indefatigable public service will never be forgotten…

ABC condoles with the respective families:

Wife Rosiel, and children
Raymond and Irhine
Parents Pablo and Pacencia Cabugayan
Mathay, Cabugayan, Ulit, Inocando, Leuterio
and Francisco Families
Ignacio, Opelac, Flores, Cruz, Morales, Mayagma,
Apalla, Cauilan, Bello, Corvera, Balacia, Redome,
Cagasan, Palac and Miguel Families

Maeng's remains lie in state at Blk. 30 Lot 21 Verde Heights, Gaya Gaya, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Interment will be on Sunday, August 20, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Eternal Peace, Muzon, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Husband Regino Calimag
and daughter Sacha Ekaterina
Parents Henry and Roceni Recheta,
and brothers Warren and Wilt Recheta

Hazel's remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. Cremation will be on Sunday, August 20, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. after the 2:00 p.m. wake service at Funeraria Paz. She will then be brought home to Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

Wife Jeanalyn and children
Diane, Pamela and Jordan
Parents Angelo and Salud Guiao
Brothers and sisters Edna Cuartelon, Ely Tungol,
Lynda delos Santos, Evelyn Licudine,
Helen Medina, Angelina Sadsad, Ricardo Guiao,
Rico Guiao, and Angelo Guiao

Arnel's remains lie in state at 5 Tikling St., Amparo Novaville Subd., Novaliches, Caloocan City. Interment will be on Saturday, August 19, 2006 at Serenity Memorial Park, Caloocan City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Amparo Novaville Chapel.

(Please omit flowers.)

GENOVEA "BEBING" BAUSON DELLOTA

February 18, 1921 – August 12, 2006

Her children **Cora Diaz** and **Mar Lobo**, **Vicky** and **Macking Dumol**, **Malu** and **Pedro Legaspi**, **Rose Marie**, **Philip** and **Joy Sian**; and her grandchildren and great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence in Panitan, Capiz. Requiem Mass will be celebrated on August 19, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the San Lorenzo Parish Church of Panitan.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

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Bidding is on September 13, 2006 at 1:00 PM and Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila upon payment of the required non-refundable fee.

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on August 31, 2006, 2:00 PM at the abovementioned address.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A).

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI–August 18 & 25, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

NENA BONGUIT SOLIS,
Petitioner,
-versus- **SSC Case No. 6-15928-05**
ANGELITA GARCIA-BOHOL and the SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Respondents.
x---x

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

TO : MS. ANGELITA GARCIA-BOHOL

GREETINGS:

Notice is hereby given that on the 8th day of June 2006, a **RESOLUTION**, consisting of 2 pages, was entered in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

> "**IN VIEW THEREOF**, this Commission hereby orders the SSS to pay petitioner the death benefit of Juan E. Solis upon her filing of the claim therefore, subject to its existing rules and regulations, and to inform this Commission of its compliance herewith.
>
> **SO ORDERED.**

Makati City, Philippines, **July 27, 2006.**

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - Aug. 18, 2006)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **ISPHERE GLOBAL INC.**, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New IT Export Service Firm in the field of Software Development** on a **Non-Pioneer** Status with project/plant site located at **14-A Rufino Pacific Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation
and Registration Department

(PDI – August 18, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Virginia M. Sanchez has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as Per Doc # 274; Page # 56; Book # 1 Series of 2006 by Atty. Joseph Erwin J. Gregorio Notary Public for and in the City of Pasig.

(PDI – Aug. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2006)

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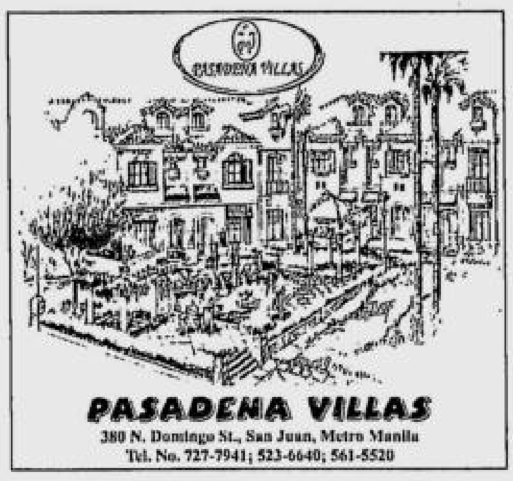

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RESOLUTION 2006-021

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO RESOLVE THE SOONEST POSSIBLE TIME THE RECYCLED IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINTS AGAINST HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO TO ENHANCE THE PHILIPPINES' POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

===

Whereas, different individuals have been allowed to file impeachment complaints with the House of Representatives against Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in violation of the Constitutional prohibition that only one impeachment complaint against the President must be filed within one year from the filing and initiation of the first impeachment complaint;

Whereas, the unregulated filing of impeachment complaints by individuals who have no legal standing gives the false impression among our people that many are supporting the impeachment initiative;

Whereas, there is an urgent need for the House of Representatives to resolve these impeachment complaints with finality as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary speculations and prevent further division among our people;

Whereas, the grounds of the impeachment complaints are recycled from last year's dismissed impeachment complaint;

Whereas, the earlier the impeachment case is resolved the sooner the nation will achieve political stability;

Whereas, our people are tired of too much politics and want the government to concentrate on the business of governance and the delivery of basic services;

Whereas, the unbridled filing of impeachment complaints have made a mockery of the process;

Therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, upon motion of Gov. Vicente P. Magsaysay of the Province of Zambales, that the League of Provinces of the Philippines most respectfully urges the House of Representatives to resolve the soonest possible time the recycled impeachment complaint against Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to enhance the Philippines' political and economic stability.

Resolved further that copies of this Resolution be presented to the Speaker of the House of Representatives for his consideration and appropriate action.

Resolved finally that copies of this Resolution be presented to the Her Excellency Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her information.

Unanimously approved this 2nd day of August 2006 during the 11th General Assembly of the League of Provinces of the Philippines held at Discovery Suite, Pasig City, Metro Manila.

Certified true and correct:

JOSEFINA M. DELA CRUZ
Secretary-General

Attested by:

ERICO B. AUMENTADO
National President

LUIS CHAVIT C. SINGSON
National Chairman

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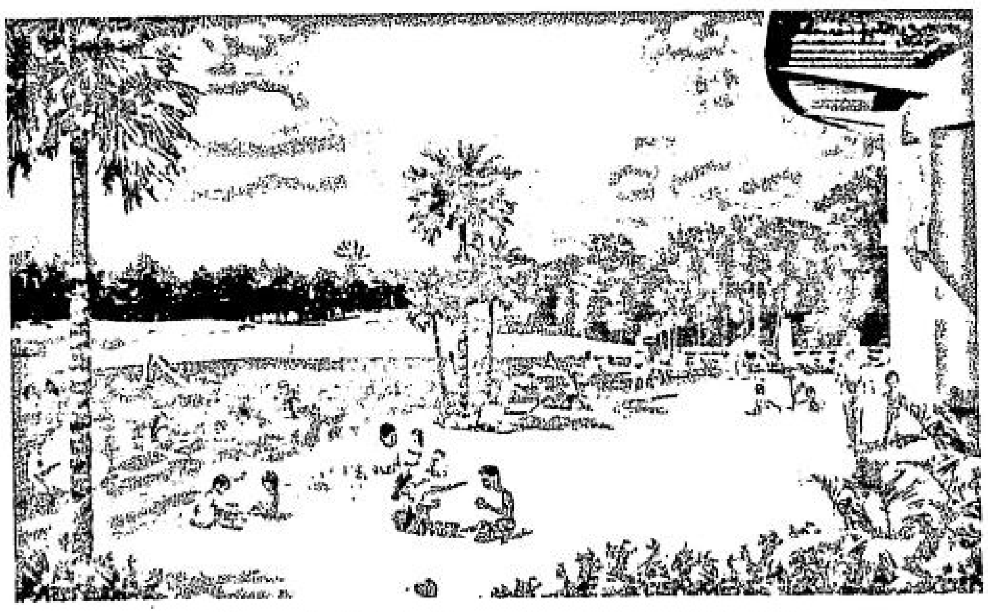

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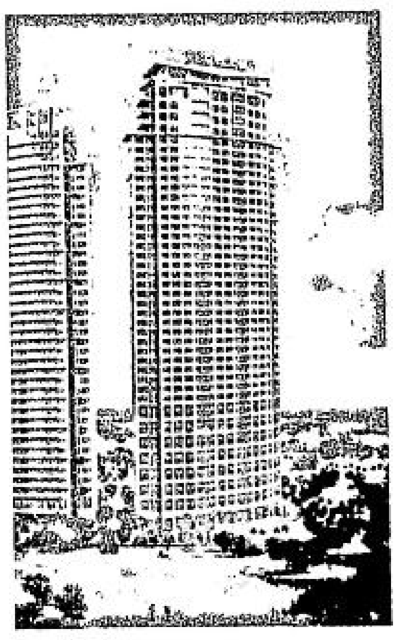

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

B
REVERED
AS THE HOT-HOUSE FOR
WORLD CHANGING
IDEAS

ACE SAATCHI TEAM
PDI PHOTO/RUDY ESPERAS

Creating an ad; handling clients with 'art'

Ad agency talks about what goes into the making of an ad campaign

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HOW IS AN AD MADE?

Top executives of Ace Saatchi & Saatchi recently took time out to discuss and show INQUIRER BusinessFriday how a commercial ad is made.

The meeting was set on a stormy day with eight top honchos of the ad agency sitting down to a meal of chicken *empanada* and soda to talk about how they come up with ideas for an ad campaign and to share insights on the art of handling clients.

Accounts kick off

Ace Saatchi vice president and director for strategic planning Jing A. Villacorta starts the discussion by stating that "everything is kicked off by accounts."

By accounts, she was referring to the men and women who "serve" or take care of the clients of the agency. These clients are usually big companies that have relatively huge advertising campaigns which require getting an agency to handle.

Gigi R. Garcia, another Ace Saatchi VP and director for client services, says the accounts people usually get a brief on a new product or new campaign from the client or company.

CREATING/ B2-2

MALDITA
MALDITA

" We spend a lot designing for Maldita girls. So we try to find ways to cut costs. Switching to Sun got us 60% savings on phone calls."

- Eric & Emelda Teng
Owners, Maldita

Women dress up to get the guy. So my wife, having more business savvy, lets me screen the designs. It's a guy thing to go for low necklines and butt-enhancing cuts. That's why Maldita is our tag.

Maldita's demanding. We can't be concerned with other operations headaches so we accessorized our frontline and back-end teams with Sun phones to address even the smallest customer concern – like which branch still has a size XS of our sexy milkmaid tops.

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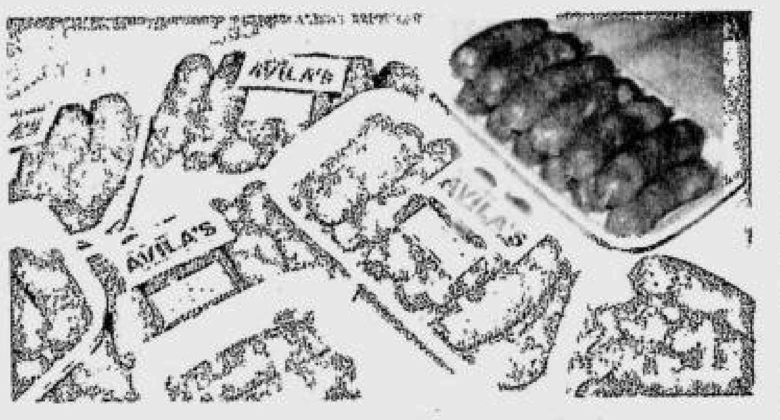
Housewife's secret 'longganisa' sizzles in Lucena

Text and photos
by Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon



FROM sales of a couple of dozens, the homegrown business now averages 200 dozens of sausages a week.

AVILA's longganisa used to be sold tied with "buntal" straw. Today they come in plastic-covered styropore containers.

LUCENA CITY—FOR HOUSEWIFE Lita Avila, 65, her secret variation of pork "longganisa" has not only left a mark in the discriminating palate of her own clan and close circle of loyal customers but it has also become her ticket to joining the growing company of Filipina entrepreneurs.

Longganisa is a native sausage made from beef, chicken or the more popular, pork–based mixture.

It's a popular Filipino breakfast item, along with hot vinegar dip, that blends well with fried rice, egg and hot coffee or chocolate.

The seasoning varies but mostly comes in sweet and spicy. The mixed ingredients are stuffed inside dried pork intestine.

Innovations

Back in 1975 in the farming village of Calumpang in nearby Tayabas town, Lita's meat vendor-neighbor cajoled her to join her in the business.

"With the abundance of meat, someone gave me a basic recipe on how to make longganisa. But I still did innovations on the ingredients and mixture before I finally hit that distinct delightful taste, which my customers have been feasting on ever since," Lita says.

She started selling a few dozens of her homemade sausage in the neighborhood.

"Some small traders also placed orders which they sold in several factories in neighboring towns," she recalls.

Avila sold her homemade meat product at P70 a dozen.

Just like the popular Lucban's longganisa, she started selling her sausages tied with "buntal" straw and hanging from wires or bars.

When the family resettled in Lucena City, the family matriarch temporarily stopped her business to face the period of adjustment to the new surroundings.

But she resumed her food production venture in the early '80s.

Different taste

When the Avila couple joined the Couples for Christ religious community, Lita says what they gained was not only enhanced marital spirituality but also thriving customers for the family's longganisa business.

"There were no marketing gimmicks and strategies. My customers simply multiplied by word of mouth that what I was offering was a different taste of longganisa," she says.

The longganisa production then was a family affair. Lita's husband Fred was in charge of turning the chunk of pork meat into tiny bits while their son Arnel took care of stuffing the meat mixture inside the casing.

Their daughter Tess did the tying.

Lita politely declined to reveal her much-treasured original recipe.

However, after a little prodding, she confessed that she only used fresh and prime cuts of pork meat.

"There is no substitute for freshness. Ever since, I never used frozen meat even if it's much cheaper. I don't want to compromise the quality of the product," Lita says.

She says she was used to going early in the market to personally choose the best and meaty parts.

Not Lucban's

Lita's broadcaster-journalist son Arnel, the popular host of "Pag-usapan Natin" daily morning program aired over local cable STV6, clarifies that the product was not another version of the famous "longganisa" from Lucban.

"Ours is plain and simple homemade pork longganisa. It's not another variation of the other popular product. My mom's longganisa has a very distinctive taste, far different from its sausage cousins in Lucban," Arnel asserts.

Lucban's longganisa is rich in the fragrance of crushed oregano leaves and other spices; Avila's homemade sausage balances a mixture of vinegar, garlic and other secret ingredients.

"Aside from the inimitable taste of our longganisa, there is another thing which any new eater will not surely miss—our sausage never bursts while being cooked unlike other native sausages. The meat will remain intact inside its casing," he boasts.

The secret: "I never add extra pork fat in the mixture to save on cost. The only fats that can be found in every piece of our longganisa are those natural fats of the meat cut—no more, no less," says Lita.

Arnel notes that Lucban's native sausage industry, which can be found displayed along the streets, is now "highly commercialized."

"Most of them are into mass production. In our case, we still cater to the same intimate market composed of old and loyal customers."

Marketing

Arnel's media exposure partly helps in the marketing of the family product.

In his daily television program, he often receives text messages or phone calls from his viewers, attesting to the good taste of the sausage.

Some messages come in with humorous undertones, like: "Mr. Avila, I really liked your sausage."

Arnel says the Diamond Resort, one of the high-end resorts in the city, includes the homemade sausage in its menu.

The establishment christened the longganisa-based serving with fried or plain rice and pickled garnishing as "Rated A," which stands for Avila.

"I was told by the resort owner that the dish always elicits good remarks from diners, even from a foreign ambassador who stayed in the resort for several days. The foreigner never missed to order Rated A," Arnel says.

Fast selling

From only a couple of dozens of the native sausage when Lita started selling it to her neighbors, "Avila's Homemade Longganisa" is now a fast-selling food item in the cold section of the supermarket inside the Metro Pacific Mall here and among Quezonians here and abroad who love good and simple native food.

"Our product has already reached the US, Japan and Europe as *pasalubong* of *balikbayans*," Lita says.

Every dozen of longganisa is no longer tied with buntal straw. It is now packed in a styropor box covered with plastic sheet complete with the cooking instruction: "No need to boil in water, directly fry in oil using low to medium heat."

The sausage sells at the supermarket at P125 a dozen.

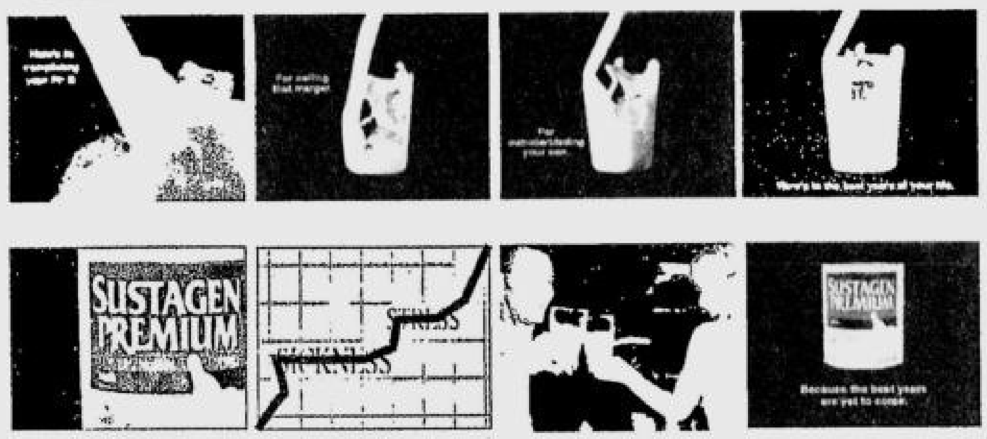
Most of Lita's loyal customers still prefer to pick up their orders at the family residence—which also serves as the sausage-processing area—in Prudent St. Rosario Village, Barangay Ilayang Iyam, Lucena City.

"From a couple of dozens per production when I started the business, we now produce an average of 200 dozens a week," Lita said.

The family business now hires five regular workers in every production day three times a week.

They also accept phone orders through (042)7108826 and 09206011918.

BRANDY


Here's to the best years of your life.
Because the best years are yet to come.

VO Sustagen Premium has a multi-defense system

that keeps stress and sickness out of the way to keep you always on the right track

Sustagen Premium Because the best years are yet to come.

ONE OF THE STORYBOARDS of Sustagen Premium ad

Creating ...

From page B2-1

Gigi adds that if it is a below the line marketing (non-traditional advertising, traditional being TV, radio and print media) program needed, the agency processes the information and sometimes conducts its own research on what the client wants to achieve.

Jing says after the client's brief, where the new product, its target market, its competitors are identified and discussed, the strategic planning group of the agency crafts a strategy, taking into consideration the inputs given by the client.

The strategy is what is turned over to the creatives—the people who will execute all the inputs discussed into a TV, radio or print ad.

Ace Saatchi's executive creative director Cirio J. Cinco says before the creatives execute the ad, they meet with the strategic planners, and the accounts staff, to determine and agree on the direction of the ad.

"Here we discuss the objectives, the issues we have to address, the insights, the challenges and what advertising is supposed to do," says Jing.

During the interview the Ace Saatchi executives discussed the recently launched ad of Sustagen Premium, an adult milk.

Mead Johnson, the manufacturer, wanted to relaunch the product.

Jing says Mead Johnson "wanted to grow Sustagen Premium. The target market identified 35- to 45-year-old men.

The insights the agency gleaned about the market is that men at this age generally feel their health is good, they take vitamins and exercise regularly but they do not see adult milk as critical at this point in their lives. The men feel they are on top of the world and at the peak of everything at this stage—family and career.

It was the insight of being at the top of the world that the agency decided to push further and use for the ad campaign.

CIRIO J. Cinco, Ace Saatchi's executive creative director RUDY ESPERAS

"To empower men to sustain this peak," states Jing.

Cirio says they wanted to create an ad that will "toast to a healthy, wonderful life; that the best years are yet to come."

This toast to life concept created a connection to liquor so initially the creatives wanted the ad to look like a brandy or liquor commercial.

The group drew up a story board and showed it to the client.

"After presenting about five Sustagen Premium boards [sample story lines] to the client, they chose two to undergo testing (a series of focus groups discussions). From there, the team chose one storyboard but had to make a couple of changes based on consumer feedback. We presented the revised board to the client and got final approval to produce," explains Cinco.

At the last stage the only thing the client did not like was the background music used.

The ad was launched a few weeks ago.

Handling clients

On conflicts between agency and client, Ace Saatchi executives admitted disagreements sometimes occur. But the agency knows the money used for an ad or a campaign is the client's so it is often their way that gets followed.

"It's a classic problem of advertising people—what you believe in and what the client wants. But there is an art of handling clients where you can make the clients agree without his long face. You can always make clients think the idea came from him," Ace Saatchi corporate communications director Cid P. Reyes points out.

"If the agency can make clients see that what they are doing is achieving the objectives of the clients; at a minimum the agency has to deliver on the objectives set by the clients. That's where trust comes in," states Elaine B. Go, another client services director.

Ace Saatchi clients include P&G, since its Philippine Manufacturing Corp. days 40 years ago; Petron for the past 19 years; SMC yellow spreads (butter and margarine); Smart and PLDT, six years, SCA, makers of Softee and Gem tissue paper; and Roche.

Foresight helps build brands and business

SPENCER Shim of Samsung Electronics with Severo de la Cruz of Emcor

EMCOR OR THE ENGINEERING and Machinery Corporation started life in 1958 as a franchise dealer of International Harvest, selling all sorts of machinery, from bulldozers, lollers, trucks, to tractors.

By 1976, the franchise was no longer viable, as International Harvest had closed down. EMCOR was in a bind—there were no products to sell, but no way was it admitting defeat. What the company needed was not to close shop but to change the merchandise.

Founding chairman Jesus V. del Rosario, entered into a joint venture with Japan's National Panasonic and Kawasaki Motors Corporation, going into an appliance and motorcycle retail named as K-Servico. The turn about was an obvious success and was revamped into a specialty store that carried two products exclusively and came to be known as EMCOR. To avoid the overlapping of distribution, Metro Manila and Luzon outlets were called K-Servico while those in the Visayas and Mindanao named Emcor.

The roster of merchandise has since included more brands and with this came the company's expansion. From its humble beginnings, EMCOR now has 178 stores and 2,300 employees and Davao as its home base.

Severo dela Cruz, the company's Chief Executive Officer rattles off what EMCOR has to offer, "We have motorcycles, we have furniture, we also sell spare parts, and of course we have appliances."

The last item was what brought EMCOR and Samsung together. Emcor is considered to be one of the goldmine of Samsung for the needed brand awareness in far flung areas.

"We have to be knowledgeable about what's happening, for instance," dela Cruz explains, "Samsung provides the Slimfit TV, which others don't have. In addition, the components of other appliances are manufactured by Samsung. As a matter of fact, I think this company has the most advanced R&D [research and development]. Even the marketing support is aggressive. The sales and marketing team are really good. Samsung patience proves that market awareness through down the line penetration will result to brand leap. It is the only brand that sustained to push both home appliance and audio-video line all at the same. This is something unique about Samsung. The success is also attributed to the fact they consider their dealers as partner or rather part of the family."

Being a step or more ahead of the competition says a lot about one's business acumen, and for someone as experienced as dela Cruz, this is indeed vital.

Twelve years prior, EMCOR thought it wise to put up a department for advance technology systems, so they started selling cellular phones, still analog at the time. They sold computers, early models like the 286, 386 and 486. The idea was to keep abreast with development. Having this foresight has served them well.

"We've been going around the past few months putting up an independent advanced technology store, this now is our challenge. We started with heavy equipment, then moved on to motorcycles and the conventional appliances; the influx of IT products changes the business landscape. We're training our people to shift focus from selling the traditional to the current, because these new products require technical understanding. They have to know the product to be able to sell it."

Leading, dela Cruz believes, is the best way to accomplish the goal. His management philosophy is something that he says might be called "old school" but it is also a philosophy that works. "I still believe that you lead by example. Strip things down to the basics, the things that people easily understand. If you want your employees to report on time, be sure that you are there when they arrive; if you want them to be in proper uniform, do the same."

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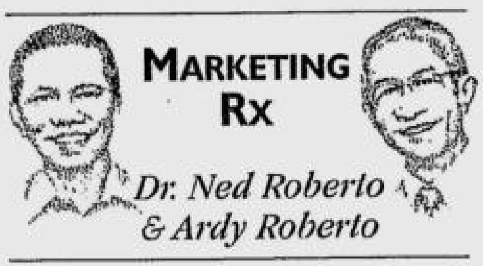
mediaforce
Vizeum

MEDIAFORCE Integrated Services Inc., the largest Filipino media specialist group, goes global as it joins Aegis Group Plc, the world's largest independent media and market research network. The Aegis Group acquired 30 percent of Mediaforce. In photo are (1st row, from left) visiting executives from Aegis Group Plc chief finance officer Kym Pfitzner and regional director for Asia Roger Winter; and Mediaforce's board of directors chairman Louie J. Morales, president Tom C. Banguis Jr., (second row, from left) corporate secretary Miguel C. Ramos, treasurer George T. Syliangco and vice chair Joey B. Avellana Jr.

How should we respond to our competitor's price reduction?


MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE ARE IN THE PACKAGED FOOD AND bottled beverage markets. In both markets, competitors have been lowering their prices. There's word going around that next quarter despite being the start of the "ber" months (September, October ...) and the Christmas season, another round of price-cutting will come. We're somewhat like the gasoline business but going in the opposite direction with respect to price changes.

Every so often, we've reluctantly reduced prices but every time we do this we don't go down as low as our competitors. We just maintain the former price difference between our product and our competitors'.

As a result of these moves, we've seen mixed results. Sometimes sales fall only slightly. Sometimes it is the same. Then at other times, it really falls. This tells us that we don't know or we don't really understand whether our lowering our prices is the right response to competition. Please help us understand.

A: There are essentially two basic ways of looking at pricing in situations represented by your case. The traditional and conventional way is what you're doing. It's what most companies tend to do. So you're not alone. You're typical.

It's clear that your product must be superior in some product value over its competitor. If you continue to sell and consumers keep on buying at your price, then that 10 percent or 15 percent higher price is actually the consumers' assessment of your product's value-added versus competition. So when you lower price, your logic is simply to maintain that "relative pricing" by your consumers and not by you.

This is okay whenever consumers in the market segment your product is in are into relative pricing behavior. Consumers who buy with a relative pricing mindset decide on their brand choice by comparing prices of competing brands. In the specific case you're in, it's not just a plain price comparison. It's a peculiar one: A comparison of price differential.

Our past research on consumer price response and behavior tell us that this is rare in fast moving consumer products such as in the two product categories where you're participating. Where it's true is in hard ticket items and categories such as in a car purchase and in a purchase of other household durables. What this implies for your pricing practice is clear. Your current competitive pricing policy has thin price research basis.

So let's move on to the second alternative way, the nontraditional way of looking at pricing in situations represented by your case.

Nontraditional view of pricing

This nontraditional view of pricing is to think not in terms of changing price. Instead it encourages you to look first at the market of a product category in terms of its price segmentation. This is a consumer behavior. It's a consumer segmentation behavior.

Just as positioning is both a marketer behavior and a consumer behavior, so is segmentation. But what most people assume is that it's the marketer who segments the market. This is of course true but it's just as true that consumers segment themselves. And consumers' most frequent segmentation behavior is by price.

For example, in our research on consumer purchases of vitamin supplements, consumers partition themselves into four price segments. In the Senior MRx-er's User-Friendly Marketing Research book, the four were labeled as the sub-economy price segment, the economy price segment, the premium price segment and the super-premium price segment.

These four segments are truly different because their priority vitamin values are different although made up of the same set of values: Quality and price. The sub-economy segment's top priority is for a really cheap vitamin and "as long as it's BFAD approved," the sub-economy consumer assumes it has some semblance of quality. The participants in this segment are the generics. On the other hand, the priority values of the economy segment are first for cheap vitamins but with at least a minimum level of quality. United Home Products Vitamin represents this segment. Among consumers in the premium segment, the priorities are first for quality and price is secondary. Consumers count Clusivol as being in this segment. For the super-premium segment, it's quality first and foremost, and as to price, its typical consumer says: "Don't talk to me about price. What do you think of me—poor?" Pharmaton is in this segment.

The brands representing the four segments are widely apart and differing in prices. But they are all selling and making money. That's solid proof that there's price segmentation among vitamin consumers.

Think price segmentation

What's the strategic significance of thinking price segmentation instead of thinking in terms of price changes? The fact that different products and brands represent each price segment suggests this strategic significance. Note how well the price segment representative product or brand is specifically tailored to the segment's priority values.

So that's an R&D or product development thinking. In other words, thinking about the pricing in terms of price segmentation drastically shifts the focus of the pricing problem. You don't ask anymore: "Should the price be changed or not (i.e., reduced or not, raised or not)?" Instead, your question becomes: "What product variant or new product formulation best fits the sub-economy segment? And what, the economy, the premium, and the super-premium?"

Of course, the issue of changing price will still remain. But that's when another brand in the same price segment makes the predatory pricing move. It's not about price changes by a brand in another price segment.

There's another though related strategic significance in thinking price segmentation. This concerns the issue of how to grow the business in a "staple" product category like rice as a staple food category or instant noodle as uniquely both a staple food and "*ulam*" (or viand) category or bath soap and shampoo as staple personal care categories.

By definition, a product category that consumers regard as a "staple" item has penetrated all or practically all consumers. There's no more significant proportion of the consuming population to acquire as a source of growth. But looking into how consumers of a staple category have price segmented themselves brings out interesting ways of growing the business. In fact, it often points to not only growing but even "exploding" the market.

Take for example the case of shampoo, a staple personal care category. Before the introduction of sachets, different shampoo brands in the same bottle size served the economy, premium, and super-premium price shampoo segments. But there was a large sub-economy segment who wanted a small cash-out shampoo. Such a "really cheap" shampoo depended upon just as cheap a packaging. When Colgate-Palmolive brought out shampoo in sachets, sales of the shampoo category literally "exploded."

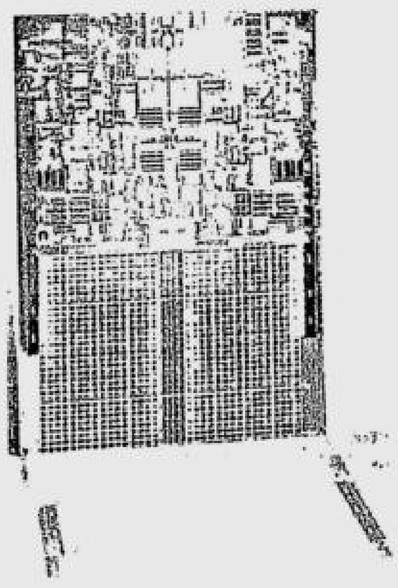
For a different angle on this theme, consider the case of our most popular staple category, namely, rice. In last July's Philippine Consumer Behavior Conference, the Senior MRx-er tackled the issue of how to grow the rice business inspite of its being a staple category. In searching for an answer, he asked: "Are all current rice consumers the same in their price sensitivity?" The answer was of course in the negative.

If they are different in their price sensitivity, then the task becomes that of finding out how many levels of price segmentation there are among rice consumers. The available data points to four levels. These are: (1) the sub-economy segment represented by the NFA rice variety retailing at P18 per kilo, (2) the economy segment represented by the Angelica variety at P24 per kilo or the Magnolia or Jasmin variety both at P25 per kilo, (3) the premium segment represented by the Sinandomeng variety at P34 per kilo or Dinurado variety at P35 per kilo and (4) the super-premium segment represented by the Malagkit Haba at P43 per kilo or the Malagkit Bilog at P52 per kilo

So there you are. There's more to pricing than reducing or raising it. Explore the other alternative to thinking price segmentation. In fact, that should be your first order of business or your first step when you're face with predatory pricing from competition.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

'When you lower price, your logic is to maintain "relative pricing" by your consumers and not by you.'



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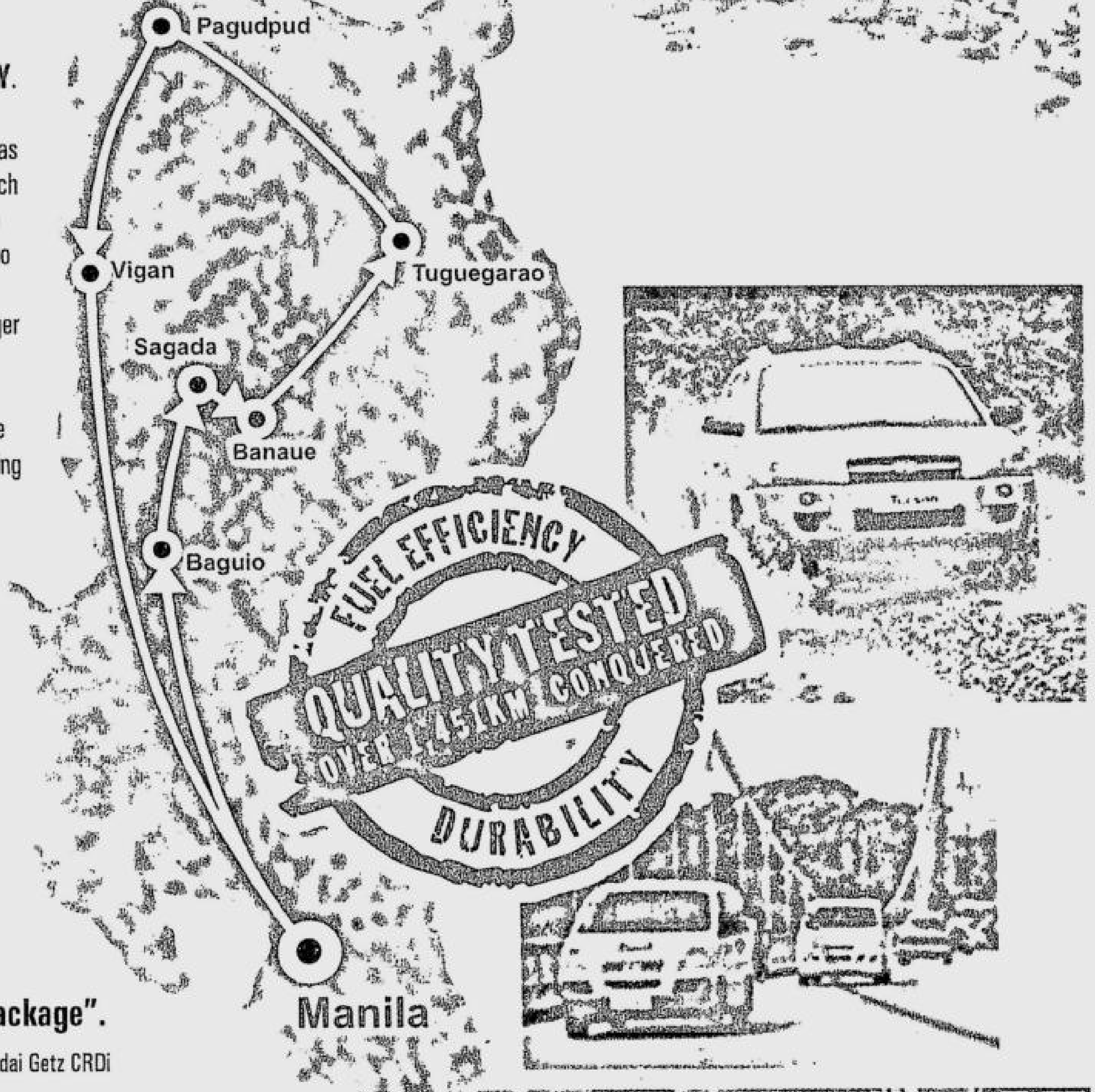
They Dared. We Conquered.

Drive your way

HYUNDAI DARES: THE CORDILLERA CHALLENGE



GOING BEYOND THE PROMISE OF FUEL EFFICIENCY.

In the various test-drives conducted early this year, Hyundai has consistently proven its impressive kilometer per liter ratings such as the Accent's 38.07km/li*, the Getz's 19.19km/li* and the Matrix's 25.1km/li*. These value-per-kilometer feats attest to the fuel efficiency of the CRDi technology, a diesel engine breakthrough that powers the latest Hyundai line-up of passenger and commercial vehicles.

The next challenge was to demonstrate Hyundai's undeniable traits of power, torque, speed, versatility, maneuverability, handling and durability.

1451 KILOMETERS IN 4 GRUELING DAYS SPANNING EXTREMES IN ROAD CONDITIONS.

From flat roads to the rugged, winding, uphill and downhill terrains, The Getz, Matrix, Starex, Tucson and the Accent were proven resilient, responsive and sturdy under pressure.

Coming from the backbreaking and demanding test run, Hyundai vehicle handlers and passengers had these to say of their overall driving and riding experience:

"Amazing power and thrift in a compact package".

Vince Pornelos of C! Magazine on the Hyundai Getz CRDi

"I can't imagine that such a great thing would come in a small package. I think it can be best summed up (in relation to the movie)... You're living in a Matrix, but now you're driving in one".

Ronald Rey delos Reyes of AutoReview on Matrix CRDi

HYUNDAI
Drive your way

"Powerful acceleration especially when overtaking".

Art Guevarra of Phil-Am Savings Bank on Hyundai Accent CRDi

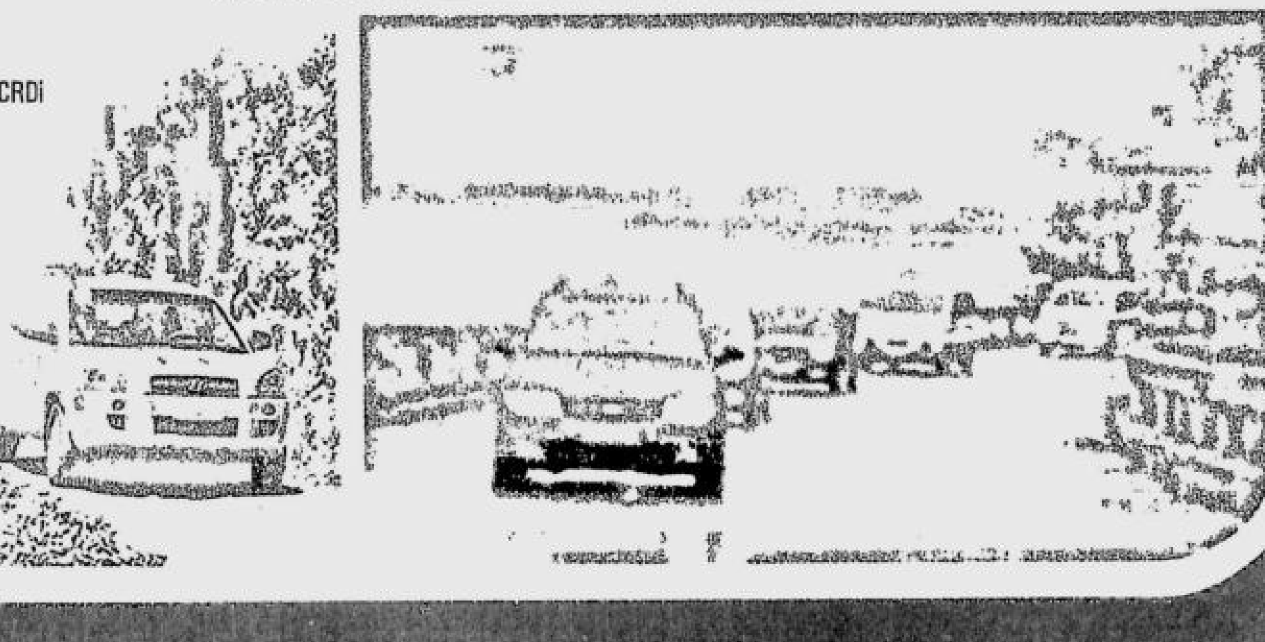
"Smooth ang drive and it's really made for long drives".

Bebot Reyes of Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) on Tucson 4WD CRDi

"A dream ride for all mankind".

Francis Chi of Aw2spec.com on Starex GRX CRDi

Globally, Hyundai has been recognized by the J.D. Power & Associates as the 3rd highest nameplate among automotive brands in its 2006 Initial Quality Study, a survey measuring customer satisfaction towards a particular product or service. In the same study, the compact SUV entry, the Hyundai Tucson, won the Highest Ranked Compact Multi-Activity Vehicle award.



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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
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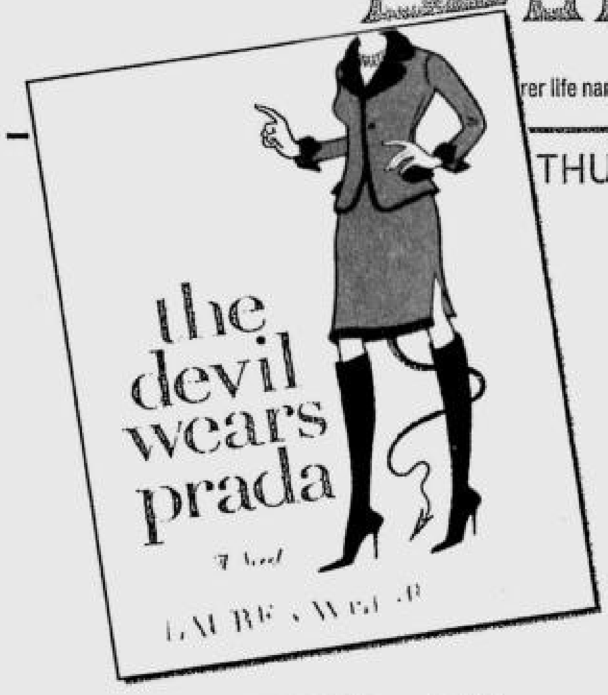
THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**



Not just Prada

Separating fact from fiction in the year's buzz movie

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

ANNA WINTOUR, THE Vogue editor in chief who has inspired the current buzz movie "The Devil Wears Prada," is not partial to Prada alone. She's also partial to Chanel and the controversial chinchilla fur for which she once got a pie thrown at her by animal-rights activists.

In short, one can't take "The Devil Wears Prada" too literally, nor the real-life editor on whom the lead character is allegedly based.

These days the hottest tickets are the advanced screenings of the Meryl Streep movie. (Metro Magazine and Lifestyle Network are holding one on Monday for fashionistas and colleagues.) The movie has drawn killer curiosity mainly because it is based on the novel by Lauren Weisberger, who briefly served as Wintour's assistant in Vogue and apparently had no love lost for her ex-boss. Andrea, the oppressed assistant, is played in the movie by Anne Hathaway.

I went to the Warner press screening for the movie last Monday and enjoyed every scene, enough to forget about the foul weather and the foul traffic we had gone through to get there.

The movie is better than the novel because it is more cohesive and dramatic than the original material, which has a meandering narrative and commonplace prose. And because the movie has Meryl Streep.

Extremely funny

"Devil" could have been just funny, but with Streep, it becomes supremely funny, a classic satire. As the ruthless, ambitious, yet intimidatingly poised Miranda Priestly, Streep not only dresses the part (although Wintour would never be caught dead wearing those hoop earrings), she also moves, talks and stares down at her subordinates like the omnipotent editor that she's supposed to be.

Just her fleeting glance leaves her assistants (whom she generically calls "Emily") quaking in their Jimmy Choos. (One of the assistants is a scene-stealer; she's played by Emily Blunt and sports thick British accent and even thicker eyeliner.)

But this isn't a movie review. Our business is to determine why a fashion movie has become a global buzz.

What's fact? What's fiction? Will a million girls really kill for Andrea's job? The answer to the last question is "most likely yes"—if it's Vogue or any Conde Nast publication. The fame and glamour attached to this over-a-hundred-year-old magazine has reached mythical proportions.

Every publisher who knows his numbers realizes that fashion and lifestyle—the erstwhile poor relation to hard news—has become the bread and butter of the global publishing industry. (Even hardcore business publication Wall Street Journal is beefing up its fashion section.)

In Anna Wintour's case, the much-feared editor is on top of a $160-billion industry. Therefore, her power is not fiction. She plays a make-or-break role in the global fashion industry. It's a clout that has never been seen before in an editor.

Vogue's early high priestess, Diana Vreeland, built fashion into art. She became a legend and icon to generations of designers and photographers.

Wintour has built a fortune for Vogue and boosted the fashion industry worldwide. (The September 2005 Vogue had over 900 pages, 690 of them advertisements.)

Dropout perfectionist

A British high-school dropout whose idol is her late father, Charles Wintour, editor of Evening Standard in London in the '60s, Anna Wintour is said to be ambitious, driven and a perfectionist. She reportedly directs all of these personal qualities into discovering and building designers, and detecting and dictating trends. (Pay attention to Streep's discourse on "why a belt is not just a belt," which our Studio 23's Edson Aguiflor could repeat flawlessly.)

NOT JUST PRADA/ C4

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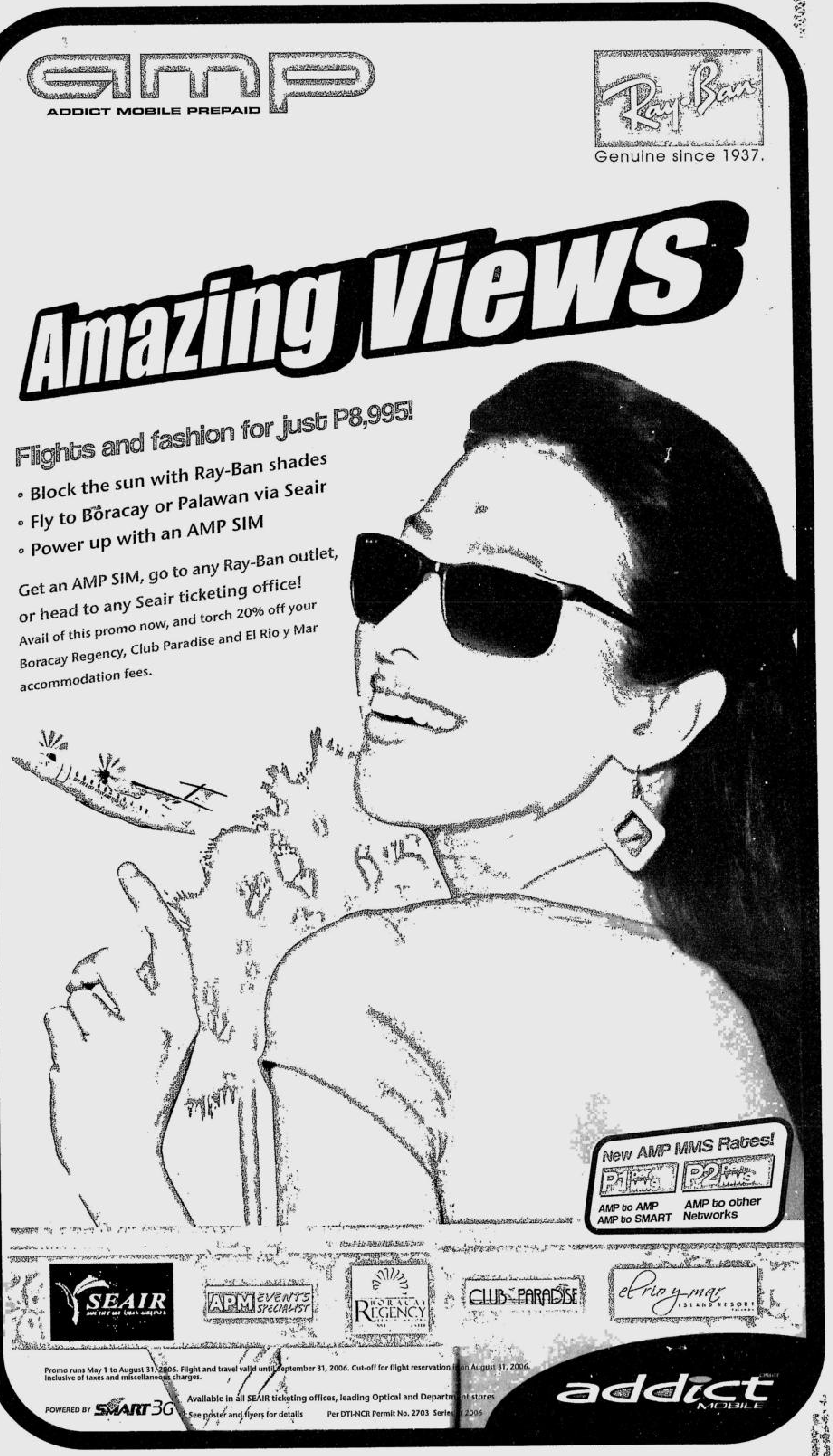
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addict MOBILE

Lingerie, lingerie

THE VINTAGE Touch collection has luxuriously lined two-ply bra cups.

WARNER'S designs provide fit, comfort and support.

IF ANYONE HAS A RIGHT TO COME OUT with her own brand of lingerie, it's Hollywood hottie Jennifer Lopez. And that that's exactly what she has done.

The JLo brand of intimate apparel is now exclusively available at Crossings Department Store, housed in the all-pink, boudoir-inspired lingerie room on the second floor of the store's Shangri-La Plaza branch and at Crossings on Quezon Avenue.

JLo Lingerie by Jennifer Lopez brings the star's special vision and fashion flair to the innerwear category, in a range of product that also includes sleepwear, robes and loungewear.

Sexy, glamorous, playful and feminine, JLo Lingerie has a mix-and-match appeal, allowing the customer to create her own look to express her personality.

The Encore! collection shows a fresh spring silhouette with its flirty lace trim. Its chemise features adjustable straps and a center front slit. The collection includes cropped pants and camisole and is available in small to large sizes.

The South of the Border collection offers a southern comfort in flirty textured cotton. Its baby-doll thong set features voile cotton, lace trim and bow detail for a more girly look. The pants have scalloped trimmed elastic waist with a cropped length. Available in small to large sizes.

In addition to the JLo lingerie line, Crossings carries the Warner's innerwear collection.

Warner's created the first brassiere in 1902 and has been one of the most trusted brands of intimate apparel ever since. Whether you prefer a bra with contour or stretch-to-fit shaping, boylegs or bikinis, Warner's designs provide the fit, comfort and support that allows you to forget they are even there, so you can get back to the business of life.

The Satin Tuxedo collection, available in A to D cups, takes an updated approach to stretch foam contours and features convertible strapless contour bras perfect for formal styles.

The Club Cotton collection is made of soft cotton for comfort and features stretch foam bra cups for modesty and support. Its contemporary sporty look is perfect for active women. It comes in B and C cups.

The Vintage Touch collection, which is available in B and C cups, has feminine details that lay flat under clothing. It has luxuriously lined two-ply bra cups for comfort and support.

BY JLO. Encore! chemise with flirty lace trim

BABY-DOLL look of the South of the Border collection by JLo for a more girly look.

Full-figured but sexy

WOMEN WHO ARE WELL-endowed have no reason to fret about finding the perfect underwear. Sara Lee has a special line of brassieres designed for full-busted women called Just My Size.

Just My Size Seamless Demi Underwire Bra provides attractive shaping to breasts and is perfect for low-cut tops. Its sleek, seamless styling gives smoother curves, while two-ply cups provide extra bosom support.

For comfort and elegance, Just My Size Cami Comfort Bra is a bandeau-styled bra with the modesty of a camisole and the support and flexibility of a multi-way strapped brassiere. Its lacy front and detachable straps can be worn in several ways, allowing you to exude sexiness while wearing sheer tops or under jackets and blazers.

Want to look naturally curvaceous with added comfort and support? Just My Size Detachable Straps Bra features an underwire for perfect fit and extra support. Made from special tricot fabric for durability and fiberfill cups with inner cotton fabric for smooth outline and heavy support, this bra can be worn strapless, crisscross back or the regular way.

Flaunt your curves with Just My Size Comfort Cushion Strap Soft Cup Bra, which has padded straps and sleek satin fabric that allow you to show your curves even in simple garb.

So for big-size women, feel comfortable, ultra sexy and stylish with Just My Size. Available in sizes 38 A/B/C, 39 A/B/C and 40 A/B/C.

COMFORT Cushion Strap Soft-Cup Bra

JUST MY SIZE Cami Comfort Bra for extreme support and elegance

Choose the right teen bra

BEIGE or nude shades are best under whites.

THANKS TO THE TEEN Collection of Maidenform, there are lightly lined, soft, smooth brassieres for every top.

Here are four tips for choosing the perfect bra:

1 Straps peeking out from under a top are a style no-no. Use a racer-back to keep them out of sight. For tanks, strapless, halter, or backless styles, a convertible-strap bra offers endless possibilities. This calls for some "lift." Go for a flirty push-up.

2 For activewear, you don't want bra seams or lace showing through your snug tee. The solution: a seamless T-shirt bra. Go for a stylish sports bra that moves with you while giving the best support.

3 Dark undies showing from under light-colored clothing spoils the look. Beige or nude shades are best under whites, since they blend with your skin color and won't show through.

4 Never wear bras too tight or too low. They only create unsightly bulges, no matter what size you are. A lightly lined soft-cup bra in the right size offers ultimate comfort, support, and shape.

Maidenform Teen Collection is available in all leading department stores nationwide. Maidenform is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. Call 8909703.

GO SPORTY!

COTTON PERFECTION
Calvin Klein Underwear introduces Pima Cotton, the finest cotton yarn in jersey knit. Fine and lightweight, the collection provides classic fit for everyday comfort.
Calvin Klein Underwear is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. with stores at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Power Plant Mall, Glorietta 2, The Podium, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place, Festival SuperMall, 158 Designers' Blvd., and Rustan's Makati, Tower and Cebu.

Are you fitted with the right size?

ACCORDING TO STATISTICS, 70 percent of women are wearing the wrong bra size. On Aug. 23-27, Debenhams will be having a special bra-fitting event in their stores. Highly trained bra-fit advisers will give free consultations.

Debenhams sales manager Sarah Bryce recently came to Manila to give a course on determining the right bra size.

"Try the bra on," she said. "Don't just buy it off the rack. You have to be fitted because every bra will fit you differently."

Generally, a woman's back size (the measurement right under the breast: 32, 34 and so on) does not change—unless there's considerable weight gain. But a woman's cup size changes depending on the bra style or "that time of the month" when hormones tend to make breasts swell.

Here are some questions to ask when fitting bras:

Why look for a new bra?

If you just had a baby and change size, if you're wearing a strapless dress to a wedding, if you want to minimize your chest, you need new bras.

Does it fit your pocket?

Fitting bras you're not willing to pay for is a huge waste of time and energy. But cheaper bras that are easier on the budget may not be too kind on the breasts. Never will you get the ample support your body craves.

How does it feel?

This is the most important part of the whole bra-fitting exercise. At the end of the day, it's not about coming out knowing what size you are specifically, but leaving the store with a bra that fits perfectly.

TURQUOISE bra accented with frills and yellow bows

BLACK gel bra

More tips:

- The middle part of bra should go flat onto the chest/ breastbone.
- The straps are adjusted to make sure the bra doesn't come up the back. If it comes up the back, it's because your cup size is pushing you forward. When you raise your hands up, the bra strap should stay where it is.
- Make sure that two fingers can go under the backsides comfortably. This will gauge if there's enough breathing room for you.
- The cup has to come over your whole breast. If your cup runneth over, your cup's too small.
- Be fitted at least three to four times a year.
- You have to use the first hook when the bra is new, so you can adjust as the garter loosens up.
- A bra is good for only three to six months.

Debenhams, distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc., is at 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. It will soon open at Rustan's Makati.

DEBENHAMS offers an exclusive and extensive collection of sexy and fun underwear including matching bra and panty sets by Collections.

ANDREA Casiraghi at the Monaco Film Festival

Monaco prince on charity visit

ANDREA PIERRE CASIRAGHI, the son of Her Royal Highness Princess Caroline of Monaco, arrives in Manila this August to visit and lend support to the charity works of his mother, specifically Amade-Virlanie Foundation, a socio-civic organization dedicated to providing shelter and guidance to abused children.

Together with foreign volunteers from the foundation, 22-year-old Andrea will visit children who are living in the Virlanie homes in Makati, Payatas, Tondo; special children in Cavitel; and those who locked up in jail at the Reception Action Center.

He will meet with youth volunteers and musicians, attend a feeding activity with fellow Virlanie volunteers in Onyx and join a youth forum in Ateneo de Manila with participating students from different schools and universities.

Andrea's visit will likewise be celebrated in a gathering dubbed "Royal Chill Out" to be held in Nuvo and Mezze in Greenbelt 2 on Aug. 25. Guests and supporters of the cause will be given a Virlanie-Beloved cuff designed by Amade-Virlanie advocate Inno Sotto.

The Amade-Virlanie Foundation, established in 1992, has grown from a shelter for homeless children to a growing network of 14 homes that take care of over 300 street kids. Since its inception, the foundation has touched the lives of thousands of children who have been victims of various forms of abuse and exploitation, in turn giving them a chance for a better life.

The executive committee of Andrea's visit to Manila is composed of Amade-Virlanie Foundation's founder and president Dominique Lemay, board member and chair Marietta Santos, and members Josine Elizalde, Deeda Garcia and Dr. Antonio Protacio.

Buy a car, visit Disneyland

GOINGS ON

GET A CAR LOAN FROM THE PHILAM Savings Bank's American-inspired Big Apple promo and a chance to take your family to Disneyland Hong Kong. All Auto Loan clients automatically get one electronic coupon for every P100,000 outstanding loan balance at the end of each raffle period. The last draws will be held Sept. 4 and Nov. 4.
At stake in September are three all-expenses paid holidays for four (two adults and two children) in Disneyland Hong Kong with US$500 pocket money. In November, two winners will get a holiday for two in the Big Apple, a six-day, five-night stay at the Waldolf Astoria, plus Broadway tickets and US$1,000 pocket money. Call 8139772 loc. 2033 or visit your nearest branch.

NEW CDO STORE. Robinsons Department Store has opened its newest branch at 2/L, Limketkai Mall, Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro City. The event featured, among others, GMA 7 Kapuso artist and "Starstruck" Idol Rainier Castillo. As part of the inaugural promo, with every P300 worth of purchase until Aug. 25, a shopper can win one of four laptops to be given away in a weekly raffle draw. Customers also have the chance to get a free cell-phone case for a minimum P500 single receipt purchase until Aug. 25.

TRADE FAIR. The province of Nueva Vizcaya is featured in Festival Supermall's Alabang Provincial Trade Fair Aug. 24-Sept. 3 at 2/L, Carousel Court. Available are fresh agricultural produce, native crafts, household decor, gift items, processed foods and furniture from leading manufacturers of the province. The event is organized by the mall, Nueva Vizcaya provincial government, Department of Trade and Industry, and Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Programs. Call 8503514.

CONFERENCE. The Ateneo Center for English Language Teaching and the British Council of the Philippines invite all English teachers to participate in the 36th bi-annual conference, "Context, Culture and Communication: Teaching ESL in the 21st Century," 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sept. 9, at the Escaler Hall, Ateneo de Manila University.

ORIENTATION SEMINAR. MediTrans Academy at Unit 404 Web Jet Bldg., E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave., Libis, QC, offers two classes on medical transcription: 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 3-6 p.m., Monday-Friday, starting Sept. 4. An orientation seminar is set at 6 p.m., Aug. 25. Call 6347808.

SALE. Robinsons Malls hold "Sidewalk Sale," Aug. 18-20. For today's opening, RX 93.1 disc jockeys joins shoppers in Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila for a live remote broadcast. Meanwhile 101.1 Yes FM disc jockeys will perform at Robinsons Place Novaliches and Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa.

BOOKFAIR. Genyo, a product of Diwa Learning Systems, joins the 27th Manila International Book Fair, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, . at the World Trade Center. Visit www.idiwa.ph

SINGING TILT. The Brick Road will hold the Symphony of Voices singing contest for amateur singers. The elimination round starts Sept. 16. Entry forms are available at ad and promo department, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. The finals will be held 7 p.m., Oct. 21, at The Brick Road, East Wing Carpark, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Marcos Highway cor. Felix Avenue, Cainta, Rizal. Call 6815401 local 118.

ZONTA International, District 17, Area 6 recently met with club presidents and Dr. Mitzi Flores Piad, area director. Seated: Eva Ilas, Chona Lopez, Rose Celis, Piad, representative Kim Lokim and Adelaida Villaraza. Standing: Chona Belmonte, Eleanor Soriano, Lourdes Rivera, Cynthia Reyes, Lizette Lim, Claudette Cruz and Malou Lopez

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Market! Market! is in Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries, call Customer Service Hotline at 886-7519.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-337, Series of 2006.

Not just Prada

From page C1

Wintour took over Vogue as fashion names were turning into brands. Using her power, she helped build high-end and luxury brands, from Ralph Lauren to Gucci.

"It's not surprising then that she broke the Vogue editor's jinx. Vogue editors were supposed to be fired after 10 years, but Wintour has been editor for 18 years, and her clout has gone beyond the magazine world; her influence has cut across continents and institutions, including museums.

So if Streep's fictional Miranda is based on Wintour, then she can really eat assistants and designers alive.

Of course, some parts are purely imaginary. Streep's Miranda demanding that her assistant get the unpublished manuscript of "Harry Potter" for her children? A Wintour friend and a controversial celebrity herself, Barbara Amiel (wife of media baron Conrad Black), dismissed that part as "ludicrous." But she also wrote, "The notion that Anna would want something done 'now' and not 'shortly' is accurate: Anna wants what she wants right away."

Amiel added: "Meryl Streep's Miranda has little connection with Wintour either in style or substance. No assistant of Anna's I have ever seen would appear in blue eye shadow and kohl black liner. They all infuriate by their gratingly pure, makeup-free unblemished skin."

While Wintour is a very private person, Amiel conceded that "Most surface details of the book, documentary (BBC) and film are consistent. The woman rises at 5:45 a.m., plays an hour of tennis, and has hair and makeup before going to the office at 8. My experience of lunch with her confirms that she does indeed consume a bloody steak and mashed potatoes or fries."

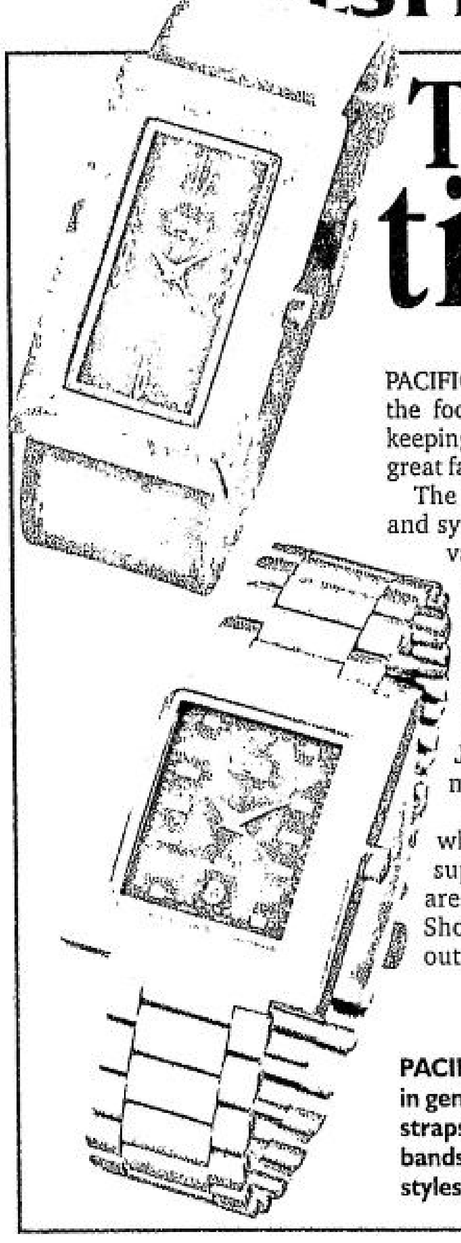
All that, however, is form. Whether it is fact or fiction, the movie bears timeless substance. We love its ending.

Success is hard work, not freebies. At the end of the day, you should know where trends end and life begins. As Streep's character would say to dismiss her assistants in condescending but withering fashion: "That's all."

(By the way, in our office, it's the young editors and assistants who wear Prada, not the boss.)

Write the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

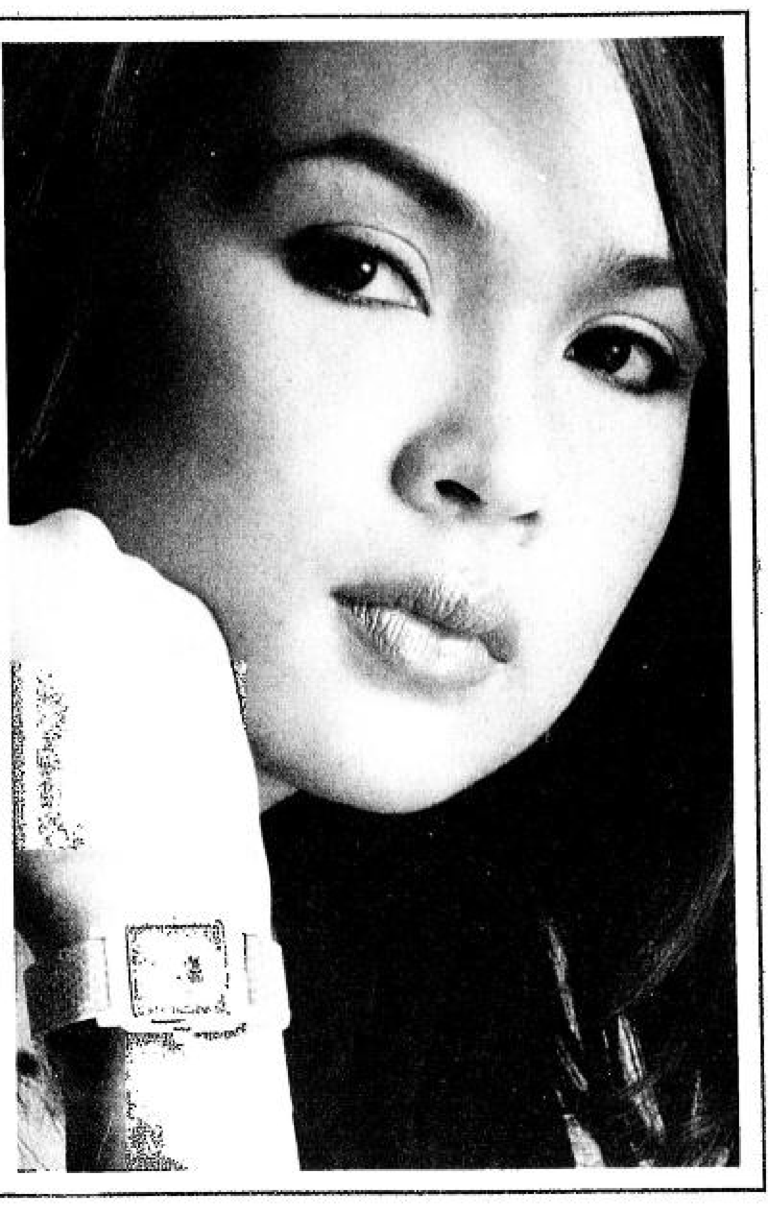
Trendy time



PACIFIC BLUE WATCHES MOVE the focus away from mere timekeeping to good appearance and great fashion content.

The watches come in genuine and synthetic leather straps with variously colored bands and faces, and in many shapes, sizes and styles. The metal collection offers simple and sleek designs for those who go for basic fashion. They feature Japan movement with six months warranty.

Pacific Blue Watches, which are endorsed by young superstar Judy Ann Santos, are exclusively available in all Shoemart department store outlets nationwide.



PACIFIC Blue watches come in genuine and synthetic leather straps with variously colored bands, and in many shapes and styles.

"Good" and "bad" fats – you should know the difference for your heart health

Protecting your heart health

In addition to regular exercise, eating a heart-healthy diet is important for the prevention and treatment of heart disease.

The American Heart Association suggests eating a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grain products, fish, legumes (peas and beans), poultry and lean meats. Dairy products should be fat-free or low-fat. Foods high in cholesterol and sodium, as well as alcohol intake, should be limited.

Not all fats are equal

But what about fats? The American Heart Association suggests limiting foods high in fat. Should you avoid them altogether? No, not quite. This is what you should know:

Although all fats are equal in calories, some are healthier than others. "Saturated" fats tend to increase blood cholesterol levels and promote the clogging of arteries. "Unsaturated fats", which include the polyunsaturated (PUFA) and monounsaturated (MUFA) fats, have beneficial effects on heart health and can even help reduce the risk of heart disease.

Substituting the saturated fat in your diet with unsaturated fat can reduce total cholesterol and improve the ratio of HDL ("good") to LDL ("bad") cholesterol. Based on studies of people from the Mediterranean, MUFAs may have benefits on heart health. This population consumes large quantities of MUFA-rich olive oil and has a low rate of heart disease. Recent studies also show that MUFAs may reduce high blood pressure and improve the structure of the arteries.

Getting the right balance: SFAs, MUFAs and PUFAs

It may sound difficult to keep track of which fats are good and which are bad. However, increasing your awareness of where the good and bad fats can be found in the diet is one of the first steps you can take to keep your diet heart-healthy.

Saturated fat: These fats tend to be in solid form (for example, lard, butter) and are found in fatty meats, dairy products derived from whole milk and some tropical oils. The American Heart Association recommends that saturated fat calories make up 10% or less of your total caloric intake each day. This can be achieved relatively easily by selecting lower fat or non-fat meat and dairy products rather than their higher fat counterparts.

Unsaturated fat – PUFAs and MUFAs: In general, these fats tend to be more fluid. Vegetable and fish oils are rich in PUFAs, whereas olive oil and canola oils are rich in MUFAs.

Defensive dining

To reduce dietary fat overall and improve your unsaturated fat intake, you can start with these three easy suggestions:
(1) Avoid the use of fat as a seasoning and cooking methods that require high amounts of fat; instead, consider baking, poaching or grilling foods
(2) Cut down on your intake of red meat
(3) Substitute high fat foods with lower fat alternatives

A nutritional supplement in your daily diet?

Eating a healthy snack or meal can be difficult if you lead an active or busy lifestyle. Many "convenient" snacks or foods are high in both fat and sodium. A nutrient-rich nutritional supplement, with a heart-healthy fat blend and a full range of vitamins and minerals, is an important option. A nutritional supplement offers good-health benefits that can help meet the needs of your active life.

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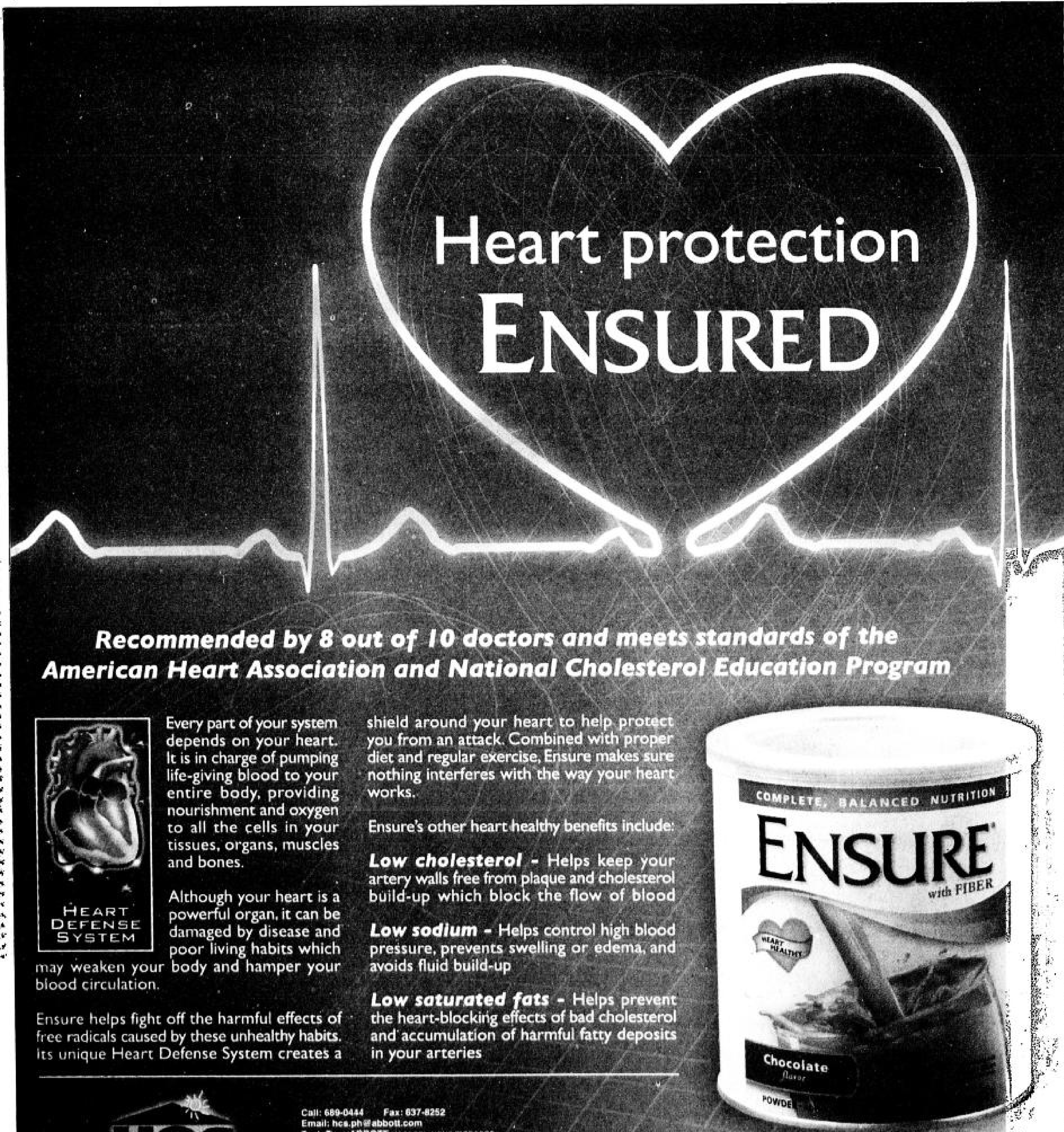
Ensure is available in major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.



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Low saturated fats - Helps prevent the heart-blocking effects of bad cholesterol and accumulation of harmful fatty deposits in your arteries

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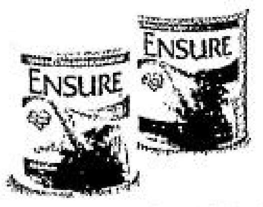

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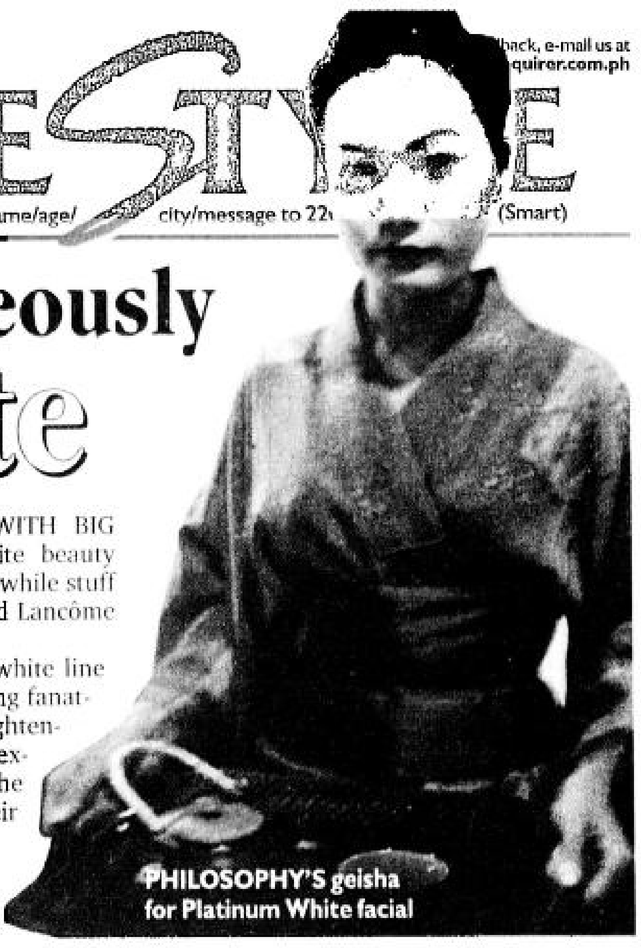

PHILOSOPHY'S geisha for Platinum White facial

THE MALLS ARE BRIMMING WITH BIG sales. I went around my favorite beauty haunts and took note of the worthwhile stuff selling at a big discount and found Lancôme to have the best offer.

Lancôme's Blanc Expert Neurowhite line has a special treat for the whitening fanatics. This line is very effective for lightening dark marks and spots, but is so expensive that readers hooked by the quick results complain that their budget can hardly afford it.

But Lancôme has come out with a starter kit which includes the Blanc Expert toner, Spot eraser (the potent serum that even got rid of some leg scars I had), and Advanced whitening hydrating milk, which I find even stronger than the night cream and great for very oily but dehydrated skin.

If you were to buy the items individually, they would cost you P5,500; but the starter kit of three is only P2,850.

These are the three essential whitening items. You can use any cheaper whitening suitable for your skin type as well as cleanser of your choice.

I couldn't resist getting the Blanc Expert makeup remover that is applied as a cream but transforms itself into oil so as to pick up any stubborn makeup debris, and then settles into a non-greasy skin-softening milk texture right before it is rinsed off.

When it comes to whitening facials, I demand obvious results after one session. They do not come cheap so there better be marked improvement on my skin just after a few days or else I will look for other treatments.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

There are two which impressed me immensely as after the treatments my pores looked smaller, pimple scars were peeled off, and people commented at how my face looked so pearly and glowing white (I had to go a foundation shade lighter as a result).

Philosophy and Facial Care

Philosophy Salon has its Platinum White facial treatment. The

PHILOSOPHY/ D4

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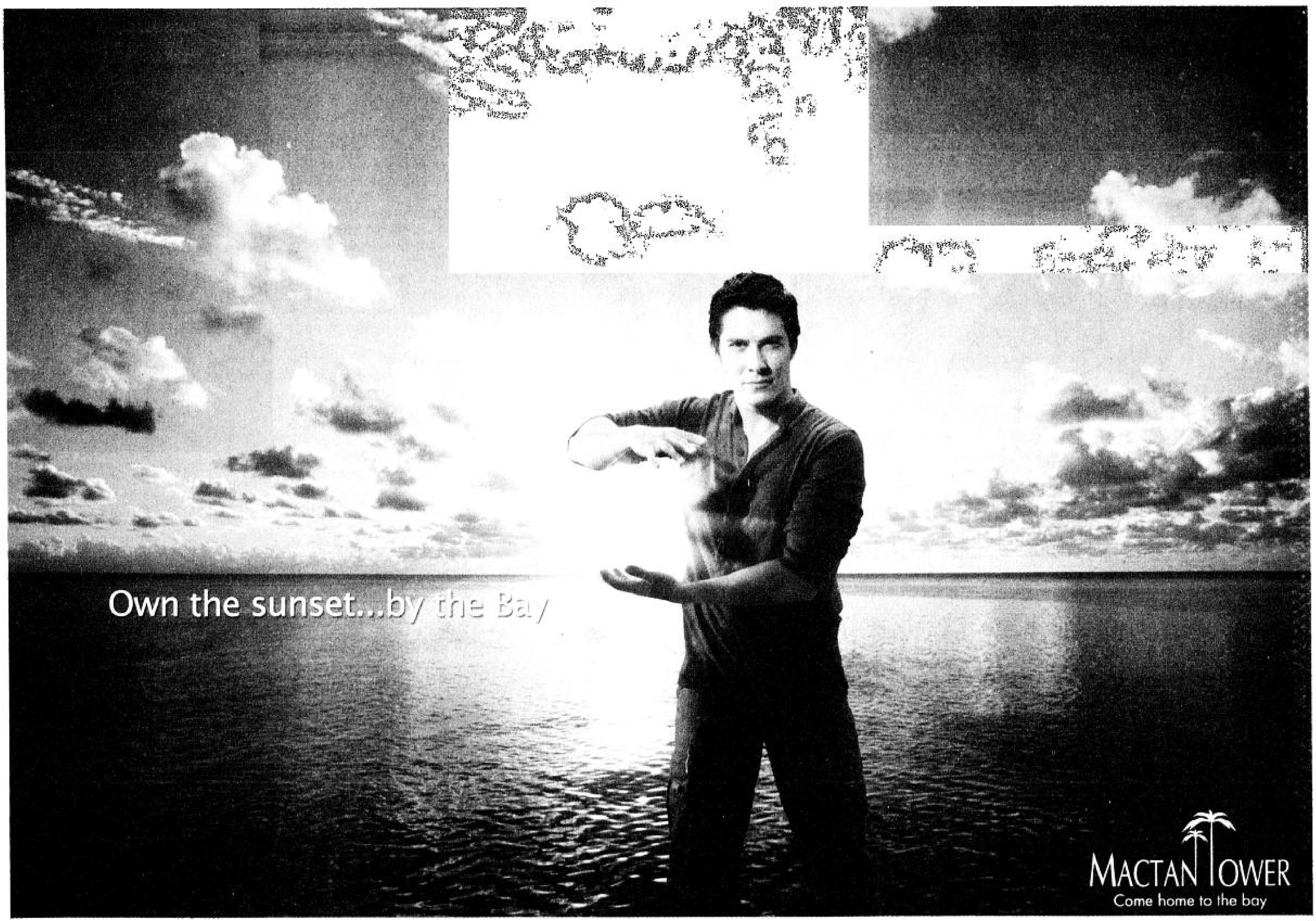
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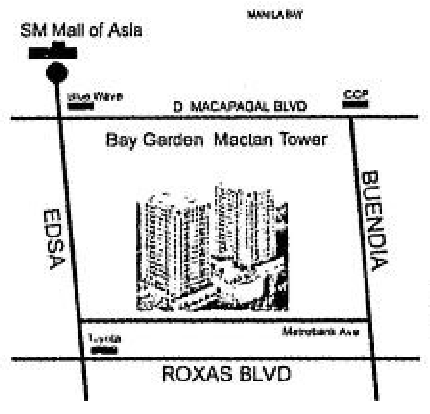
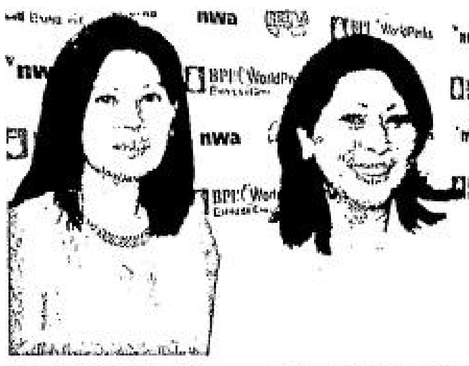


WOMEN who love to travel. Obi Ignacio, Anna Corpus and Jenny Chon


ELEGANT Tina Sison and Dada Trillo of BPI

POCH Villa-Real, MasterCard vice president and senior country manager; Perry Cantarutti, Northwest Airlines managing director for marketing and distribution in Asia; and Myra Sylienteng, BPI senior vice president and card banking group head

WOMEN movers and shakers. Nadette Chua of BPI and Judith Dayrit of MasterCard

MASTERCARD'S southern asset, Anton Corro, and Jojo Ocampo of BPI

BEAUTY and brains Gina Campos, Interpacific Transit Inc. general manager, and Kristin Colvile, attractive Northwest Airlines marketing director for Asia

Of credit cards and rock 'n' roll

RJ GROUPIES. Allana Montelibano, Eva Abesamis, Lulu Tan Gan, Jojo Zabarte and Juris Soliman

BEA Jacinto, Tom Zita, Justice Tony Carpio, RJ Jacinto and Nadine Jacinto-Alberto

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (BPI) and Northwest Airlines transformed the huge NBC Tent into a fantastic gateway to some of the world's most fabulous cities and destinations during the launch of the BPI WorldPerks Express credit MasterCard, a new travel card that links Filipino cardholder's with the rest of the world, *palanggas*.

The card is definitely a traveler's true companion, dahlings. It provides cardholders with the most comprehensive "Pamilya" offerings. Holders can earn miles automatically when they spend. The miles are without an expiry date and can be transferred to the holder's family.

Apres cocktails, **Myra Sylienteng**, senior vice president of BPI, gave a short speech. "We always aspire to bring customers the best products and we are grateful to our partners, Northwest and MasterCard," she said. "We now have an undeniably world-class product."

Next was **Perry Cantarutti**, Northwest Airlines' cyber smart managing director for marketing and distribution in Asia. She said, "We are privileged to tie up with BPI and MasterCard for this unique card that offers WorldPerks benefits and richer mileage-earning opportunities to cardholders."

During the launch, a bridge served as a runway where Manille's top models paraded to showcase fashion trends from Tokyo, Paris and New York through the creations of renowned designers **Vittorio Barba**, **Jojie Lloren** and **Randy Ortiz.**

Joining them during the launch were **Rochelle Leyba**, media relations officer of MasterCard International Philippines, **Christina Bernasconi**, **Judes Echauz**, **Mike** and **Robert Coyiuto** and **Robert Syjuco.**

Two round-trip business-class tickets to any Northwest destination were raffled off.

Moi also found out that the unique card offers access to a number of international and local destinations with Northwest Airlines' wide network of partner airlines through its SkyTeam Global Alliance, including the popular Cebu Pacific.

With that in mind, I took off and dashed to my next event, *palanggas*.

NEW YORK-INSPIRED fashion by Randy Ortiz

TOKYO-inspired threads by Vittorio Barba

RJ rocks

Music icon and mega entrepreneur **Ramon "RJ" Jacinto** outdid himself, *palanggas*, in his super-successful concert together with the Manila Symphony Orchestra conducted by professor **Tito Molina.**

And yes, dahlings, no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo attended the fab event sponsored by Globe Platinum at the Insular Life auditorium in Ayala Alabang.

Cocktails were served in the lobby prior to the show and some of the best wines from **Tita Trillo**'s "Titania" cellar and Ralph Joseph's vodka collection were served, as well as yummy treats from Dencio's Grill and the RJ Guitar Bar.

The crowd rocked and roared with delight as the rock 'n' roll icon started with his first hit, "Weightless" (circa 1961). Then RJ showed his versatility by singing and playing not only songs by Elvis, the Beatles and Eric Clapton, but also his own original compositions that dated back when he was 15 up to the present.

RJ and his band have produced hits for the past four decades and have remained popular in the Philippine music scene, drawing a huge audience everywhere they perform.

At the end of the concert, the audience clamored for "More! More! More!" RJ obliged with two encores, *palanggas*. No less than GMA, Insular's hotshot **Ting Ayllon**, Kuok's **Tom Zita**, Globe's **Ferdy de la Cruz**, Unilever's **Howard Belton**, PCSO's **Sergie Valencia**, **Mary de Leon Rufino-Mijares**, glamorous **Vicky Zubiri** and other hotshots stood up and boogied to the music.

Without batting an eyelash, *palanggas*, RJ once again proved to be a world-class performer. He made us all proud.

JOE MARIE Chan and wife Mary Ann Ansaldo, with PCSO chair Sergie Valencia

TING Ayllon flanked by Ana Garcia Zubiri and Vicky Zubiri

CHONA Lopez, Secretary Toting Bunye and Dr. Flor Bunye

BETTINA Osmeña and Dette Tan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, RJ Jacinto, Insular Life's Ting Ayllon and Frannie Aguinaldo Jacinto

UNILEVER'S marketing director for hair and oral care, Gilbert Simpao

PARIS-INSPIRED fashion by brilliant Jojie Lloren

Pink affair

Pink, pink, pink was definitely the color of the day when Cream Silk launched its Pink Power! Girl Power! campaign at People's Palace.

No wonder the resto was buzzing with women of substance and several achievers, *palanggas*. Leading the pack was the original Pink Power Girl herself, **Marides Fernando**, the fantastic mayor of Marikina City, no less, who was guest of honor.

Naturellement, this dynamic and empowered lady had some proof of how beauty and power can inspire progress. Hey, just look at the pink color all over Marikina.

Media hens present included **Pauline Suaco Juan**, **Ianne Evangelista** and **Claire Samson** of the Summit Group; **Vicky Tensuan** of Mega; and **Melanie Cuevas** of Metro magazine.

Manila Bulletin's power gal, my *palangga* **Ethel Timbol**, dressed in fuchsia pink, breezed in for a quick hello to her pal, **Marides F.**

The five Pink Power Girl Power icons—**Gaby de la Merced**, **Wan Wan Reyes**, **Lougee** of Mojofly, **Rainey Sta. Maria** and **Toni Leviste**—were toasted for "their exemplary performance in the male-dominated field that they ventured into."

Well, it did help that these gorgeous young achievers use Pink Cream Silk Conditioner, *natch*.

Bongo Ferraren produced the fab audiovisual, which featured the gals' sterling performances. Unilever's hair and oral care marketing director, action man **Gilbert Simpao**, said he absolutely believes in girl power!

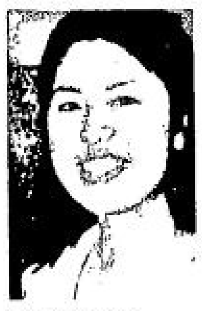
Feeling pink were the brand's rah! rah! team of **Dorothy Dee**, **Mikki Ravelo** and **Jem Perez**, together with Unilever's **Nora Valeriano**, also in pretty pink.

The pink glow at the popular restaurant was surely from the energy which the women projected.

Hey! That's real girl power, huh, *palanggas*.

CLOSE PALS. Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando and Manila Bulletin's Ethel Timbol

HOST Akiko Thompson


CREAM Silk brand manager Dorothy Dee

THE SUMMIT GALS. Pauline Suaco-Juan, Claire Samson and Ianne Evangelista

In the pink

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

RACER girl Gaby de la Merced

JUST ASK ELLE WOODS: THE trouble with women who love pink is that they are often mistaken for pretty bits of fluff with nothing in their heads.

After all, pink, the ultimate color of femininity, is something that old-fashioned macho men would rather not be associated with, because it supposedly channels the delicate "damsel in distress" look.

This is something people behind Cream Silk would like to change. Cream Silk conditioner's latest ad campaign, dubbed "Pink Power, Girl Power," focuses on women who keep their feminine charms while succeeding in jobs that are supposedly dominated by men—and yes, who love pink.

On the list are equestrienne Toni Leviste, racer Gaby de la Merced, singer Lougee of Mojofly, architect Roanna Reyes and wakeboarder Rainey Sta. Maria: all beautiful women who are on top of their chosen professions and choose to look good while doing the dirty work.

First on the Cream Silk Five is Toni Leviste, who shot to fame after impressing the world during the 2004 Sydney Olympics for the show-jumping event.

"Out of the world's 10 best show-jumpers, eight are men!" she says. "But it's about mental strength, so it's not impossible for women to do even better [in the sport.]"

Toni, who is also a sought-after cover girl, keeps a strict beauty regimen because of the extreme conditions (sun, wind, and heat) that her chosen sport subjects her to.

Twenty-three-year-old Gaby dela Merced, who is surprisingly petite for a race-car driver, is one of the most prolific competitors in the Asian Formula 3 circuit.

"I have a very special relationship with my car," she says. "When I'm behind the wheel, I become the car."

Aside from racing, Gaby is also into extreme sports and has joined several adventure races. She also coaches the flag football club at the Miriam College grade school, where she used to study. Like Toni, Gaby pays close attention to her beauty regimen: "I make sure I have lots of sleep, drink a lot of water and de-stress before a race."

Lougee (yes, she goes by one name) of the pop-rock band Mojofly is no neophyte on the music scene. Before joining the band, she trained under Ryan Cayabyab as part of the teen group Kaya. The energetic singer, who also plays instruments and writes some songs for the band, had to juggle school with her music before going full-time.

"Of course it was tough," she says. "But even then, no matter how tired I was from a gig, I always took off my makeup and shampooed and conditioned my hair. Being beautiful is something you work for. It isn't served on a silver platter."

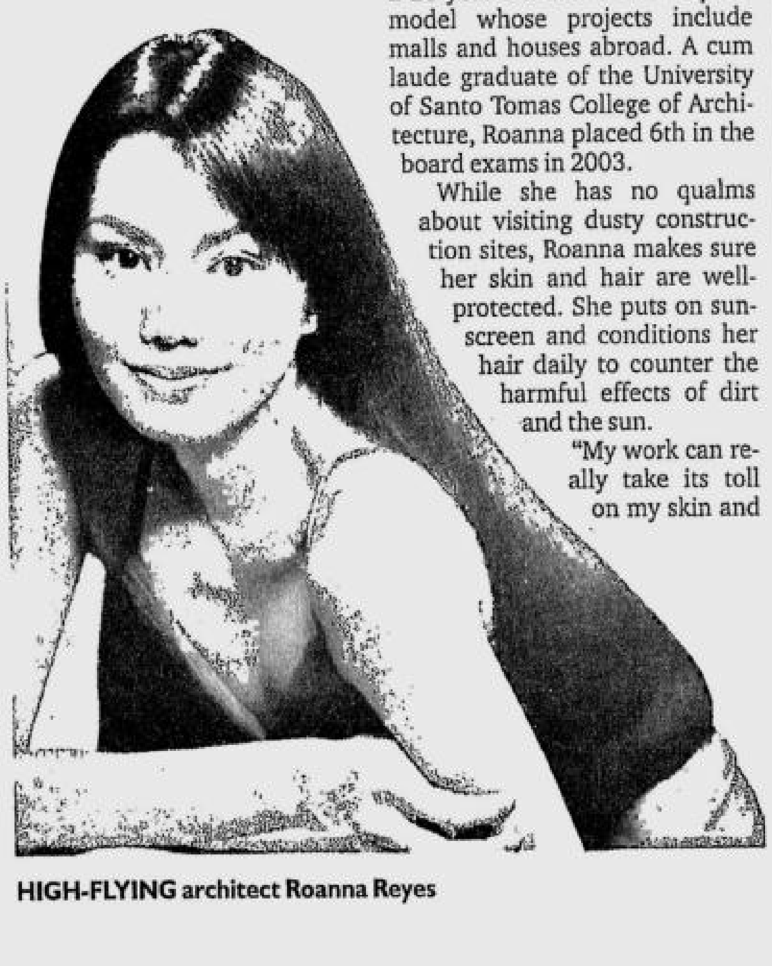
Rainey Sta. Maria, wakeboard enthusiast and former jet-ski champion, doesn't look anywhere near her 29 years. And she certainly doesn't look like the stereotypical beach lover with stringy hair and burnt skin.

"Women can have everything and do anything. Athletes don't have to sacrifice their looks for their sport. I take care of my hair because saltwater can really dry it out, and shampooing and conditioning keeps it in good condition."

Last on the list is Roanna Reyes, a 26-year-old architect and print model whose projects include malls and houses abroad. A cum laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas College of Architecture, Roanna placed 6th in the board exams in 2003.

While she has no qualms about visiting dusty construction sites, Roanna makes sure her skin and hair are well-protected. She puts on sunscreen and conditions her hair daily to counter the harmful effects of dirt and the sun.

"My work can really take its toll on my skin and hair, so I really put in extra effort to look good," she says.



HIGH-FLYING architect Roanna Reyes

Ubiquitous color

At the recent launch of Cream Silk's new campaign, guest of honor Mayor Marides Fernando of Marikina spoke about her role in politics, and how many people thought she wouldn't be able to do the work that her husband, current Metro Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando, had left her with. Many now know her as the woman who made pink an ubiquitous color in Metro Manila, since Bayani Fernando chose to install pink foot bridges and urinals in honor of his wife's favorite color.

OLYMPIC equestrienne Toni Leviste

"I saw a shirt that said, 'Tough guys wear pink' on it," Mayor Fernando said, laughing. "Pink can be a very tough color. It can connote strength and power as well. Women are no longer limited to secondary roles, and they have proven themselves capable of handling jobs that once belonged to the male domain."

"There's no reason to be ashamed of wearing pink any more," she added. "Women are now more in control. There's no need to sacrifice femininity in favor of empowerment."

Email the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

WAKEBOARDER Rainey Sta. Maria

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Devina Bapino Stub No 211710
Maria Niven C. Lozada Stub No 715512
Maribel Virtucio Stub No 870850

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Unilever
COLGATE-PALMOLIVE

*Color may vary from actual photo. See Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit #0543 Series of 2006

Instant white . . .

From page D1

shop has a "geisha" who was trained by an authentic Japanese geisha for technique and application of products. A Platinum White facial lasts for 45 minutes and costs P2,550 per session, but the package of 10 is worth P20,500.

Philosophy also sells the whitening facial cream for maintenance (P5,500), which you apply day and night.

People still do a double-take when they catch glimpses of me on the mall. I have been asked if I were Japanese or Korean due to the skin quality and brightness. When it comes to whitening, Japanese treatments still show the fastest results.

Philosophy also has a body treatment worth P5,500 per session or P51,000 for a package of 10. I have not availed of it yet, but I know body peeling is involved, and you have to schedule it on a different day from the facial as both treatments cannot be done together.

The body treatment covers the neck down and the body cream costs P9,500. I tested the cream on the back of my hands and they have become lighter than my arms. You can see the color cut off from my wrist upwards. Call 8921574 or 8187469.

Facial Care Center meanwhile offers the Fluoro facial. This seven-step skin whitening facial works to dry up pimple marks and balance overall skin type by controlling oil where needed and by hydrating dry areas.

The third step sort of stings though due to the glycolic solution left on a bit to exfoliate dead skin. This repairs the damage caused by environmental factors, hormone fluctuations and internal stress. The damage is seen in the sallow skin and discoloration.

I tried this at a different time period from the Platinum white facial so I know it isn't a spillover from another treatment's results. The moment I left the building my driver spotted me from a mile off because, according to him, my face just pops out of the crowd in glowing whiteness.

My skin did not break out during PMS. Blemishes would just dry up and peel off.

There is no take-home cream so I use my whitening skin care products from Guerlain. I also use Shu Uemura toners, serums, night creams and SPF 50 sunblocks. Make these effects last by avoiding the sun.

Marie France treatment

I dropped by the Marie France establishment right next door to try the matching body whitening called the Phymela. It started with a gentle body scrub with antibacterial tea tree, body mask and the whitening body gel.

When I left the place, my darker stubborn areas—in the elbows, back of neck, and knees—all blended in to the rest of my skin color.

The Phymela treatment is ideal for those with sensitive skin that may find salt/sugar scrubs too aggressive.

Since Phymela has no body-maintenance cream, I just used my existing Belo's Whitening body cream for the night (P10,000) and Whitening + Firming lotion with sunscreen for the day (P1,050; the VAT is not yet included in the prices).

I advise the Belo body cream for all since it faded away my marks left by mosquito bites and old wounds that are a year old.

Cheaper alternatives are Hype duo lotion (P120) and Godiva Licorice Body lotion (P140).

Contact Marie France at 894-BODY (2639); or Facial Care Center: 894-SKIN (7546).

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LANCÔME'S Blanc Expert Neurowhite line

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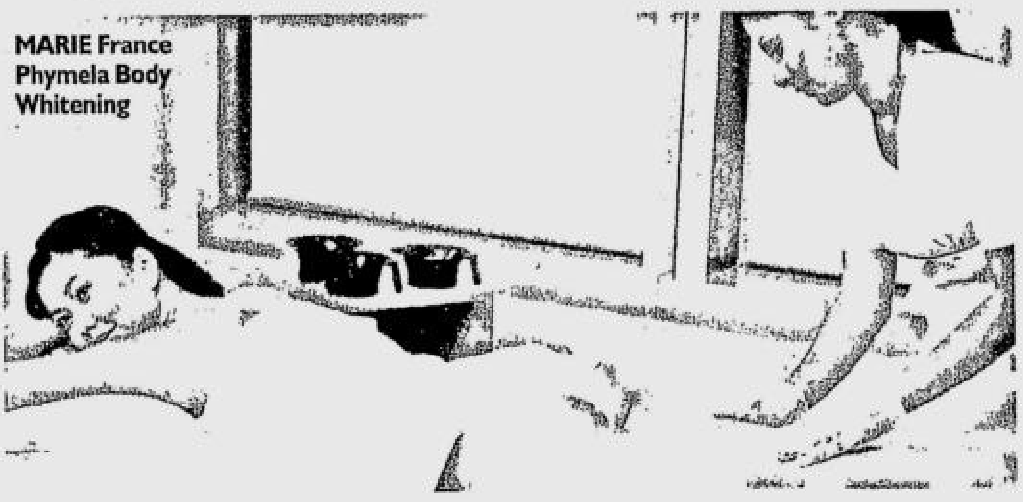
BLANC EXPERT

MAKEUP remover



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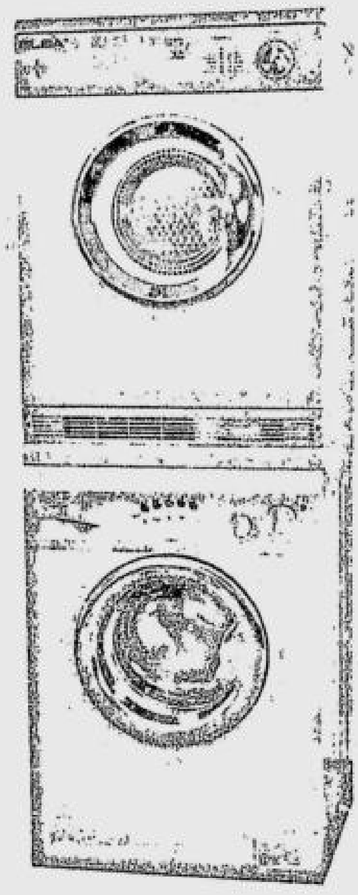

Kayang-kayang Pasarapin Ang Bawat Araw

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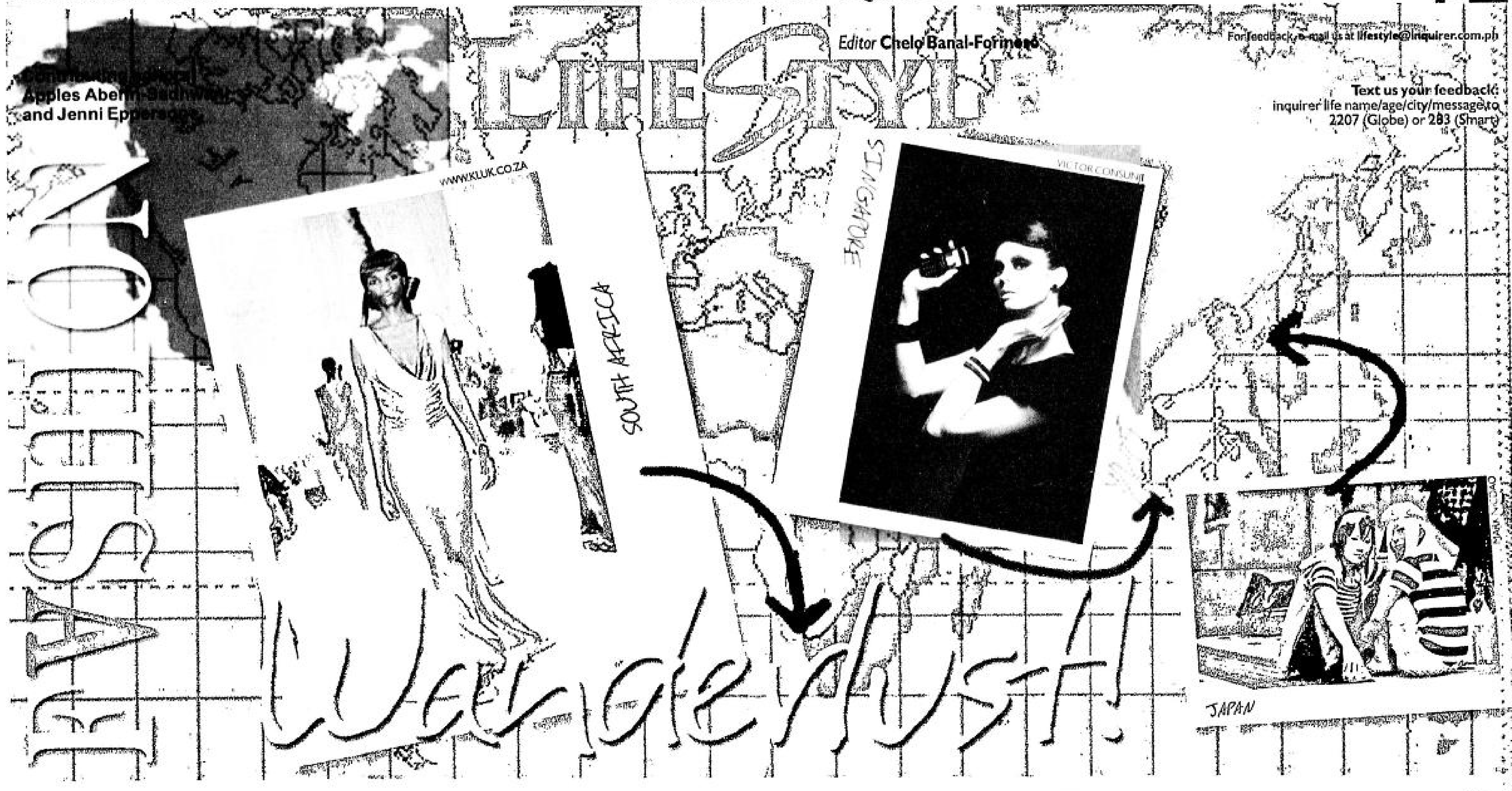
Apples Aben[illegible]
and Jenni Epp[illegible]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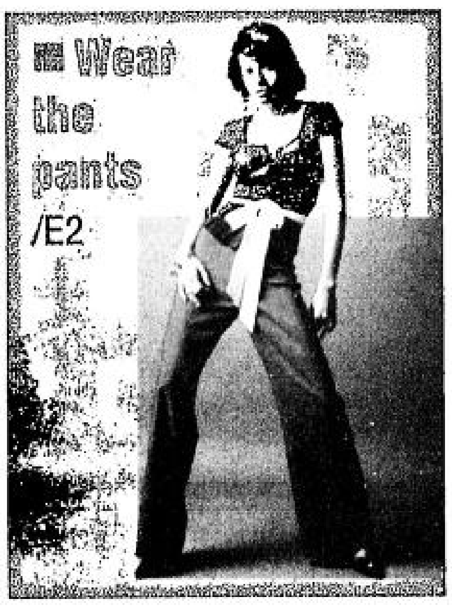
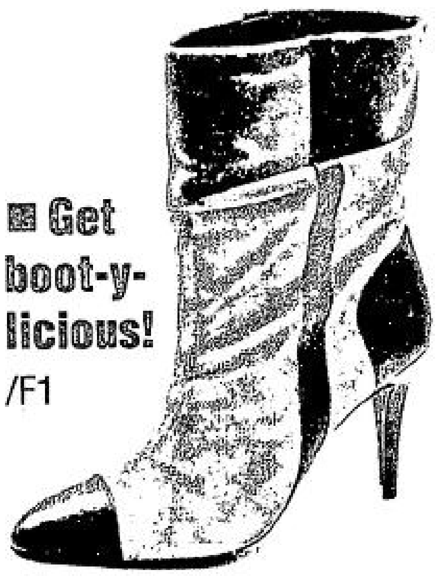
FASHION Wanderlust!

IN THIS ISSUE

▨ **Preview surreal street fashion** /E2

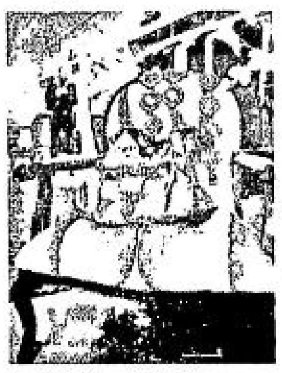


▨ **Wear the pants** /E2



▨ **Get boot-y-licious!** /F1

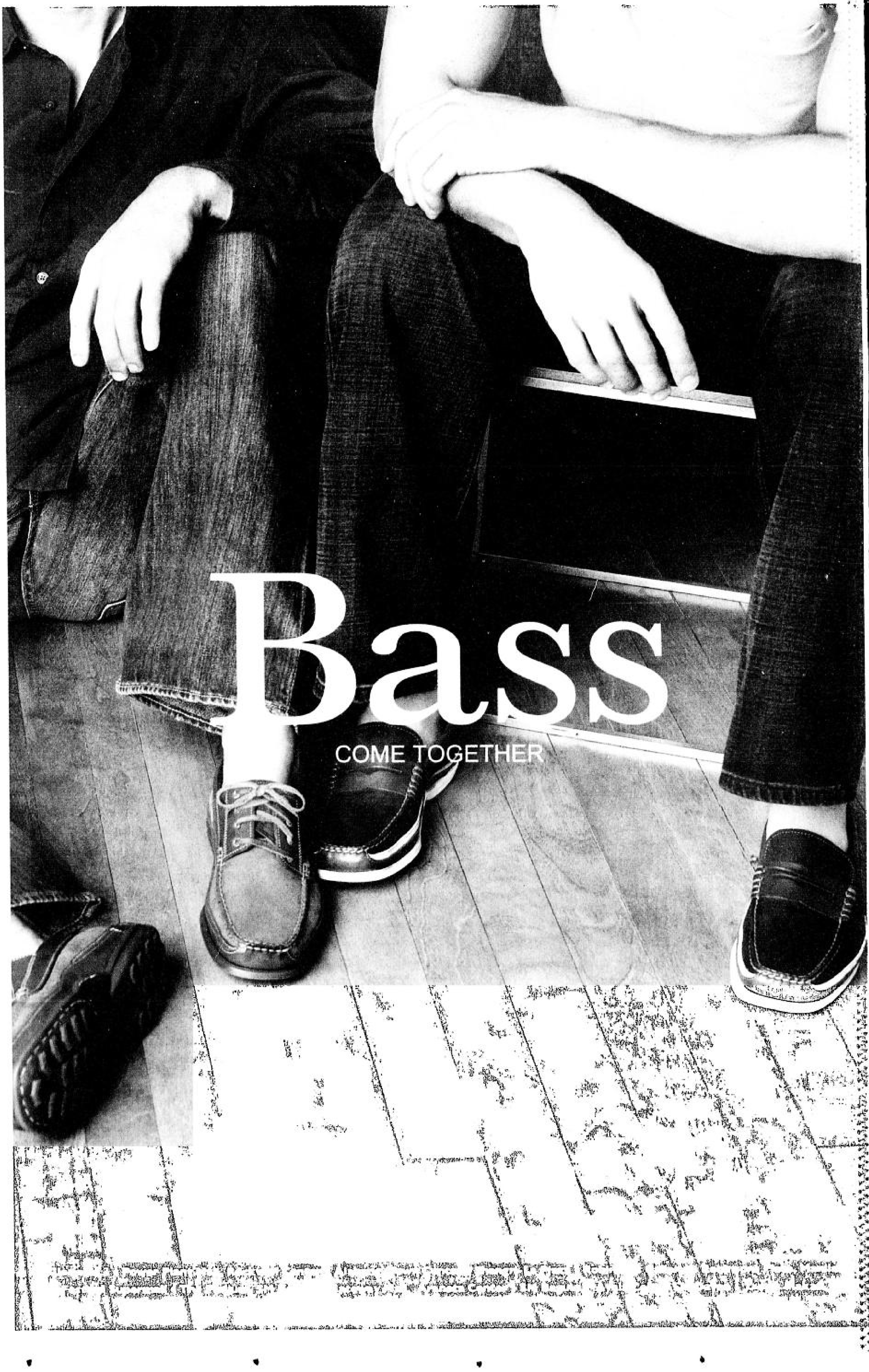
INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE



▨ **Take a fashion safari** /F2

Don not so basic black /F3

▨ **Repeat this mantra: Slim is in!** /F4


Bass
COME TOGETHER

"KAGURO Gal" by Jake Versoza

"HALLOWEEN in August" by Mark Nicdao

"SUBWAY Style" by Jo Ann Bitagcol

Tokyo tryst

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FIVE ACE LENSMEN PLUS ONE bustling, exotic metropolis equals one very surreal adventure.

Armed with their trusty Sony D-SLR a100s and keen, observant eyes, Jun de Leon, Mark Nicdao, Sara Black, Jo Ann Bitagcol and Jake Versoza recently stormed the land of Murakami and Ganguro girls to shoot scenes that stirred their creative minds and artistic souls.

The photographers had distinct and memorable experiences during the trip. Nicdao was amazed by the electric lights in Akihabara and waited till nightfall to capture the spectacle. Bitagcol was awestruck by the view from Tokyo Tower.

"It made me realize how the Japanese maximize space and respect nature," the model turned photographer said.

Versoza, on the other hand, enjoyed shooting people and scenes at the fish market.

"Everyone was purposely walking toward a particular direction or busy working. I was invisible to them," he said.

And while Black reveled at the sea of people and their eccentricities, De Leon literally waited for people to vanish from the streets. "I waited till three in the morning to take my shots in solitude," said the veteran photographer, who was responsible for gathering this team of talented artists.

As a special treat for readers of INQUIRER Fashion, the five renowned photographers focused on shooting fashion in the streets of Tokyo. The lively capital city has always been known for its unconventional denizens, so there was no dearth of eye-popping subject matter.

Where else can you find vampire-like women walking the streets in broad daylight? Halloween is still two months hence, so one is hard put to justify such getups. Then again, these Elvira types don't really stick out, as they roam the streets with men sporting animé-inspired hairdos, Ganguro girls with their bleached hair, perpetually tanned skin and platform shoes, and the Kogarus, who dress like sexy little animé schoolgirls.

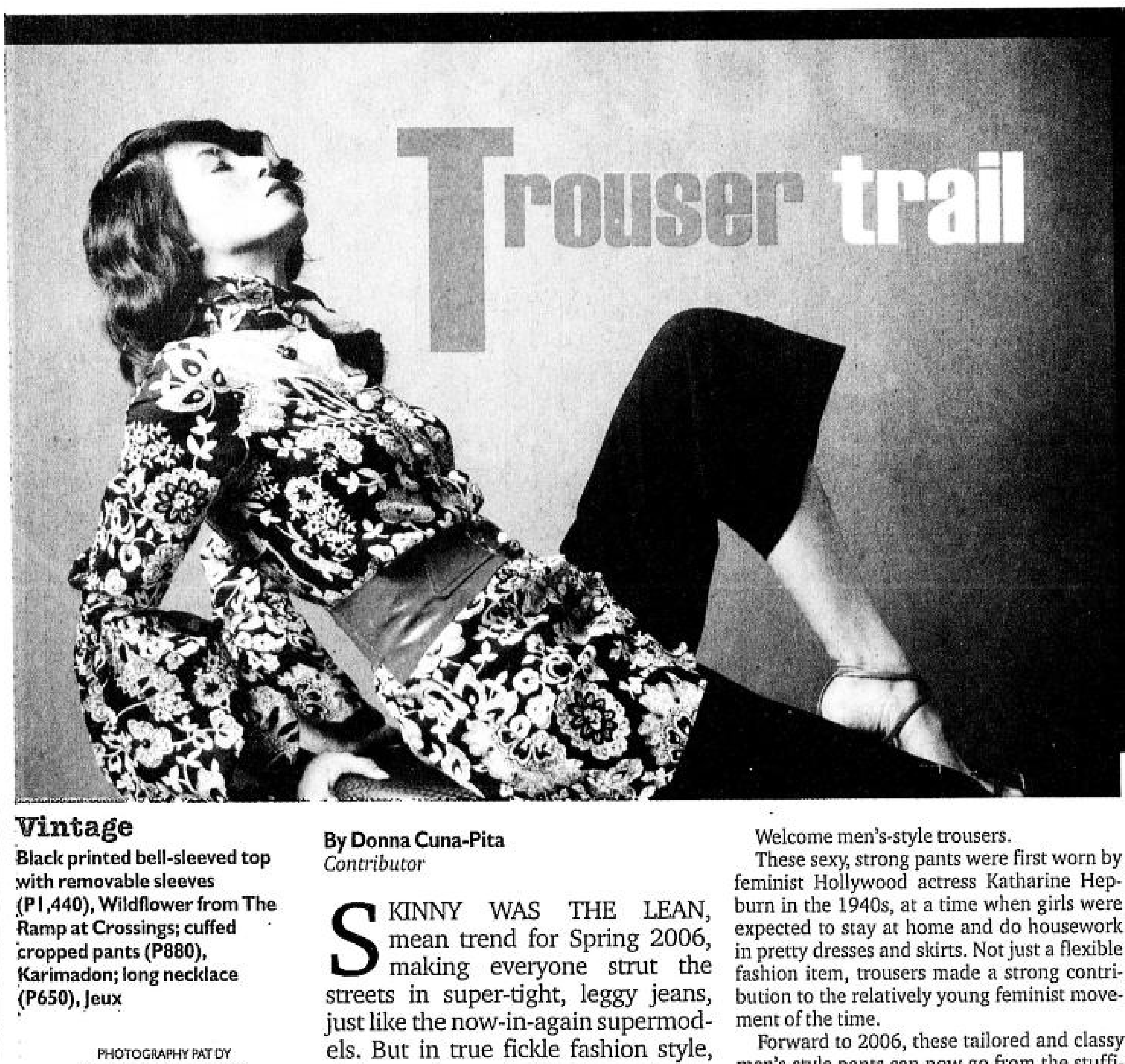
And where else can you encounter such an exciting mélange of tradition and modernity? For juxtaposed with all these fashion adventurers are graceful, fair-skinned Japanese women clad in exquisite kimonos. Picture a traditional Sayuri of "Memoirs of a Geisha" beside a saucy, sassy Sailor Moon and you get a clearer picture of how diversity exists in a land that's seemingly united on all other fronts.

They say a picture speaks a thousand words, so let these photographs relay the story of this incomparable Tokyo adventure. If you want to see more, check out the exhibits at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong, up to Aug. 21; at Greenbelt 3, Makati, on Aug. 24-27; and at the Gateway Mall, Cubao, Sept. 1-7.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

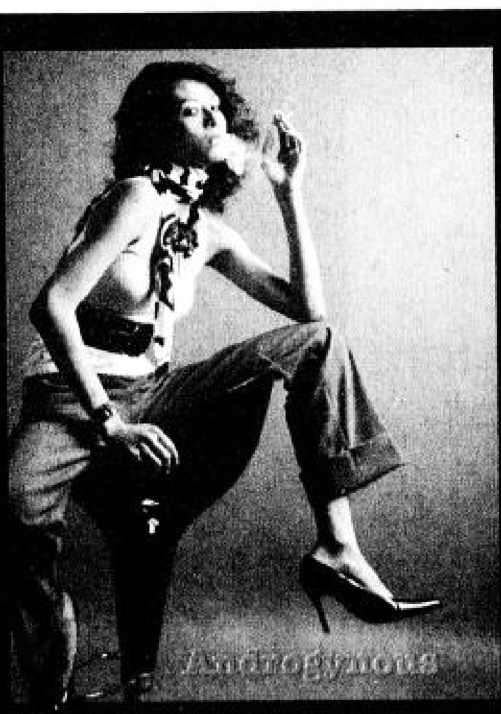
"SAYURI'S Kimonos"

Trouser trail

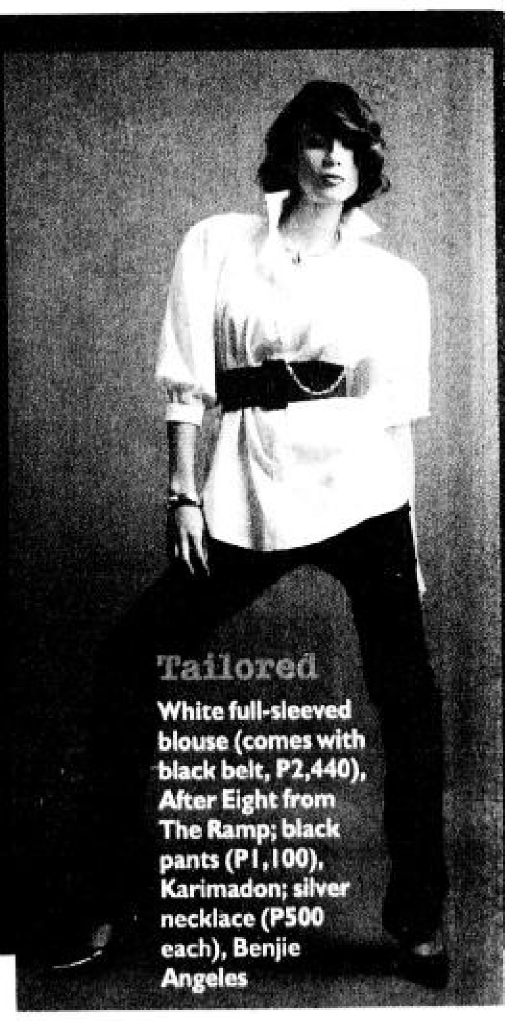


Vintage

Black printed bell-sleeved top with removable sleeves (P1,440), Wildflower from The Ramp at Crossings; cuffed cropped pants (P880), Karimadon; long necklace (P650), Jeux



White tank top (P300), Faith Hope Love from The Ramp; olive-green trousers (P1,199), Rocco from The Ramp at Crossings; wide elastic belt (P250), SM Dept. Store; black multimedia necklace (P600), and cuff (P500), from Benjie Angeles; printed black-and-white scarf, stylist's own



Tailored

White full-sleeved blouse (comes with black belt, P2,440), After Eight from The Ramp; black pants (P1,100), Karimadon; silver necklace (P500 each), Benjie Angeles

PHOTOGRAPHY PAT DY
STYLING DONNA CUNA-PITA
MAKEUP BENJIE ANGELES / SHU UEMURA
HAIR NANTE ALINGASA / KIEHL'S STYLISTS SERIES
MODEL PAULETTE / T MODELS

By Donna Cuna-Pita
Contributor

SKINNY WAS THE LEAN, mean trend for Spring 2006, making everyone strut the streets in super-tight, leggy jeans, just like the now-in-again supermodels. But in true fickle fashion style, designers have decided to swing to the opposite direction this fall.

Welcome men's-style trousers.

These sexy, strong pants were first worn by feminist Hollywood actress Katharine Hepburn in the 1940s, at a time when girls were expected to stay at home and do housework in pretty dresses and skirts. Not just a flexible fashion item, trousers made a strong contribution to the relatively young feminist movement of the time.

Forward to 2006, these tailored and classy men's-style pants can now go from the stuffiest offices to the hippest clubs with the right tops and accessories.

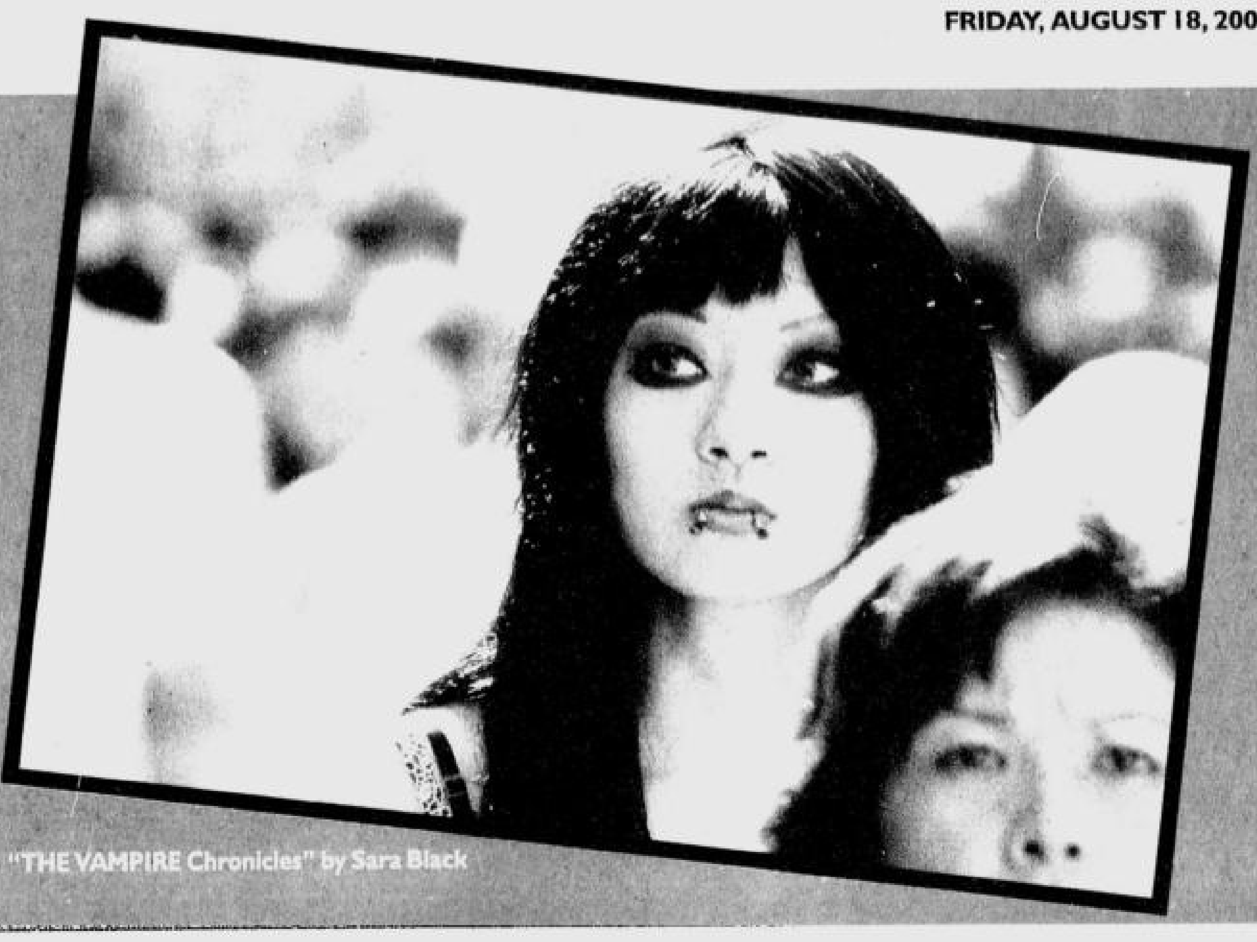
> Tailored and classy men's-style pants can go from the stuffiest offices to the hippest clubs with the right tops and accessories

Are you a girly girl? Then wear it with a pretty polka-dot top and satin sash. More rock and roll? Pair your trousers with a white tank, a wide black belt and funky accessories. Being a classic piece, this can be mixed and matched with literally every other item in your wardrobe and will last for years to come.

The tailored cut also makes this the perfect choice for almost all body types, cleverly concealing an ever-present *puson* or a less-than-firm booty while making you look effortlessly stylish. Some men's-style pants come with cuffs at the hem, which look best on taller women. The slimmer cuts with plain hems, on the other hand, look great on petite Pinays.

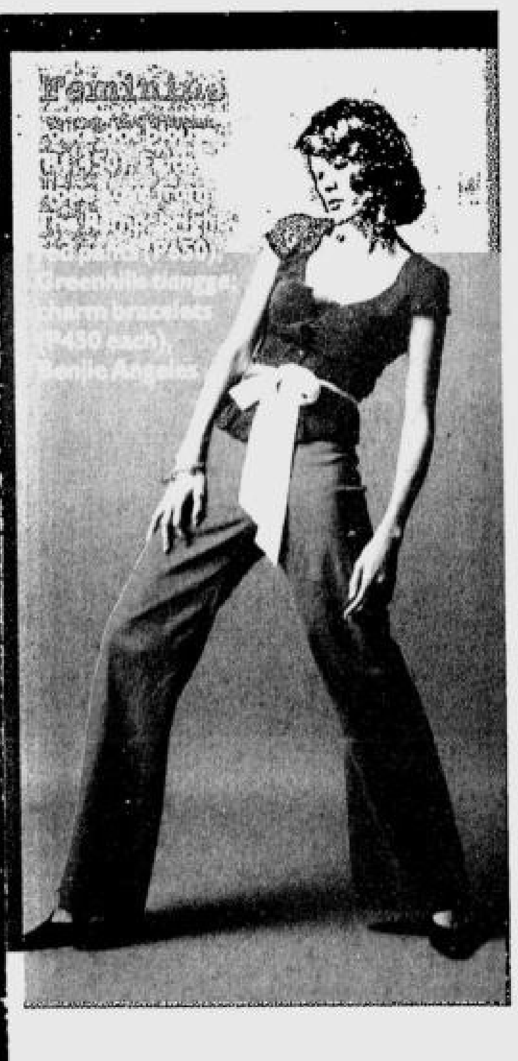
When buying pants, make sure that the

Where else can you encounter such an exciting melange of tradition and modernity?



"THE VAMPIRE Chronicles" by Sara Black

by Jun de Leon



Feminine [illegible] pants (P450), Greenhills tiangge; charm bracelets (P450 each), Benjie Angeles

pant legs reveal no more than one inch of your shoes' heels. Concealing your three-inch heels will instantly make your legs look longer and add inches to your height.

To balance the relaxed fit of these pants, tops should ideally be cut close to the body or have a cinched waist to keep the silhouette feminine and shapely. Boxy blouses and androgynous tops will make you look boyish—not a bad look if you've always had that tomboyish charm going for you. Otherwise, stick to more feminine pieces or wear high heels.

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See flyers for more details.

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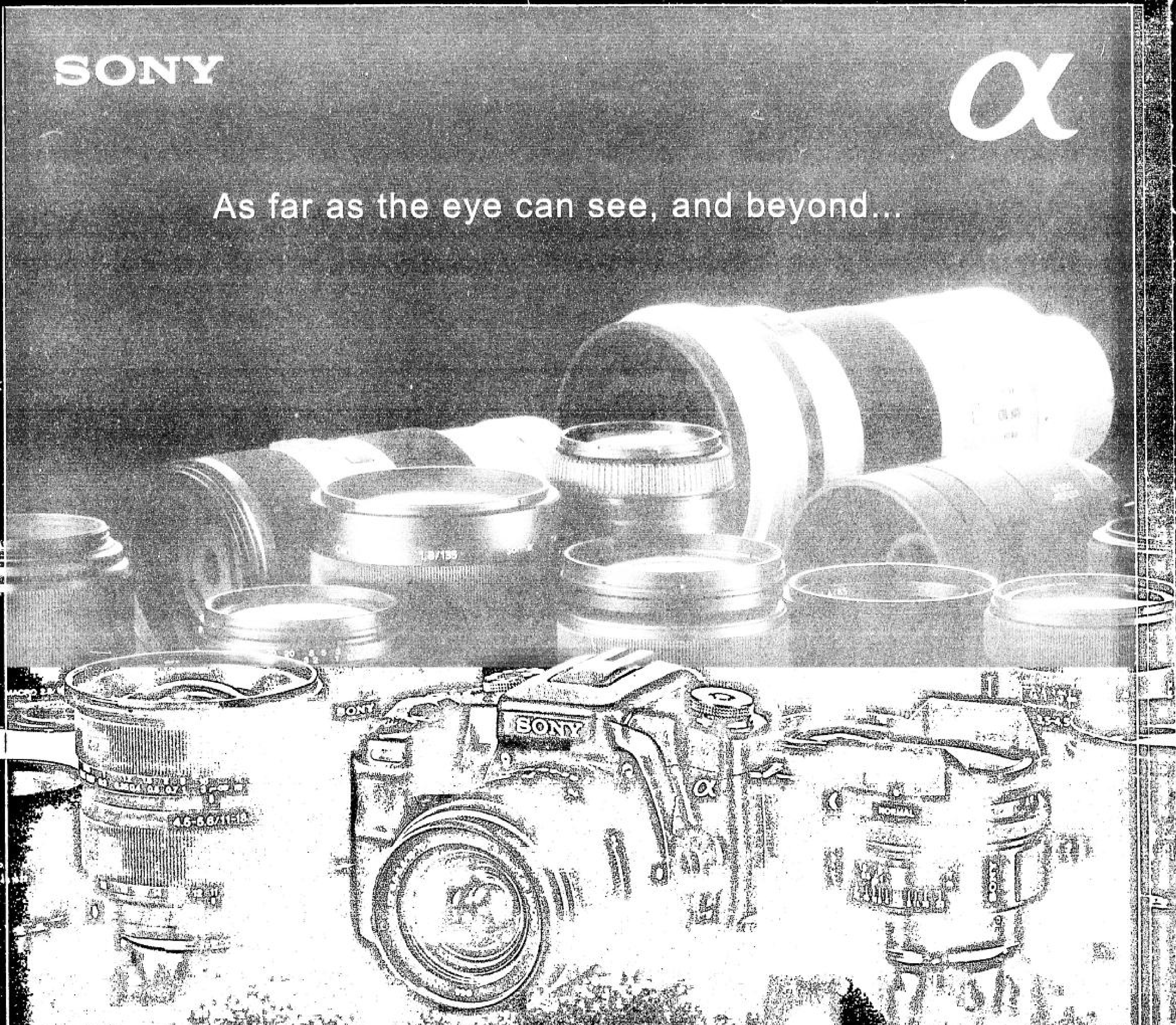

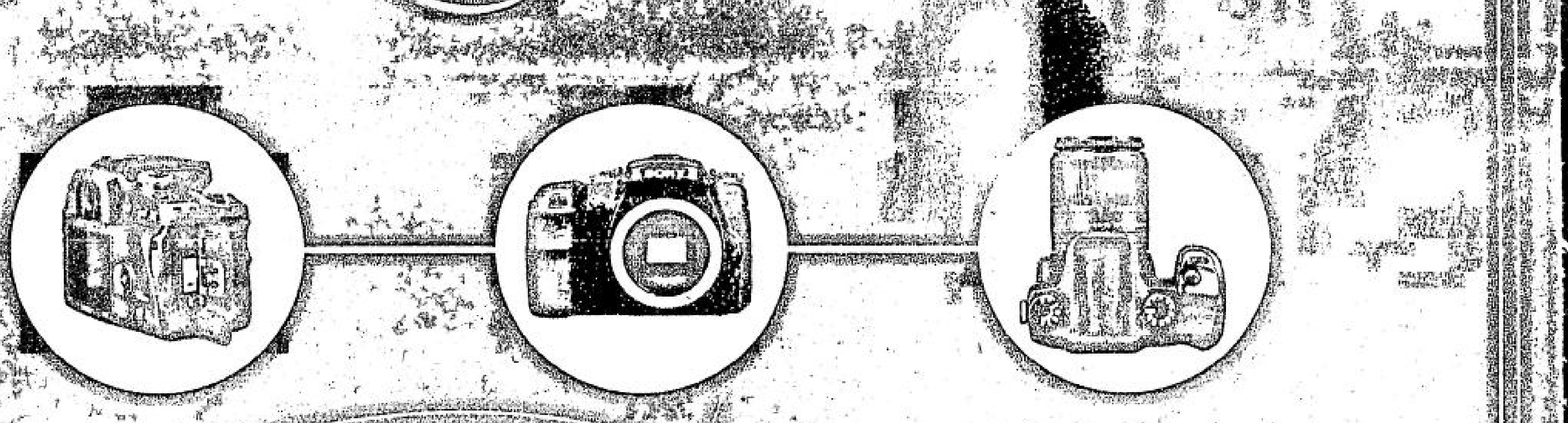

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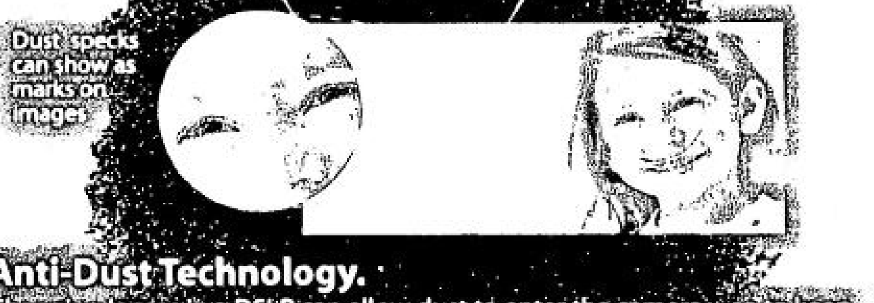
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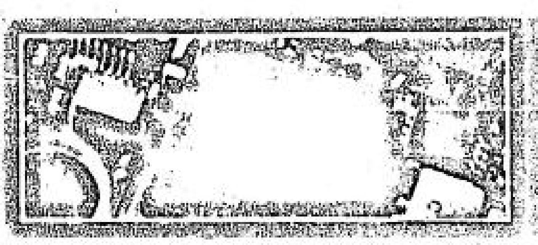

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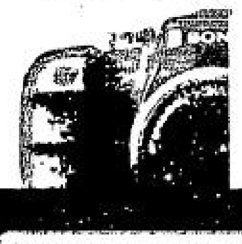

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FASHION

ZARA black knee-high boots, P6,450

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ZARA gray and black boots, P6,450

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

PHOTOGRAPHY MARLONE RUBIO

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS want them industrial-strength. Punks dig Docs. Country singers yodel cowboy-style. Dita Von Teese trips on latex. Kate Moss got laced up in them, and Nancy Sinatra once wore a pair on her Playboy cover.

Nope, its not some sexual fetish or illegal drug, but it has the same obsession appeal, and it's sweeping the fashion nation. Boots, like McDonald's Shaker Fries (I first got a dose of these yummy treats in Tokyo. Called "Shaka-Shaka" over there, now they're in Manila in sour cream and chili cheese flavors—*sarap*!), have reached this season's TDF (to die for) status!

A few years ago, wearing a pair meant any of these things: You just arrived from some cold colony, you're a member of a rock band, you're a majorette or some "trying hard" fashionista (that's what I was called when I wore one, paired with hot pants and a chiffon top).

These days, club dwellers wear the same hot pants, chiffon top and knee-high boots. Funny, right? Even office workers look cool clad in a sleek pencil cut skirt, blazer and black boots. This season's skinny jeans and leggings get a fresh take when worn tucked inside wedge-style boots.

Every season, I lose sleep over one or two items. Last summer, it was the bug-eyed sunglasses and luggage, this time it's black clothes and boots. I hunt and hoard them until I find the one that will satisfy me (rarely happens, though). I can't help it, it's the OC Virgo in me.

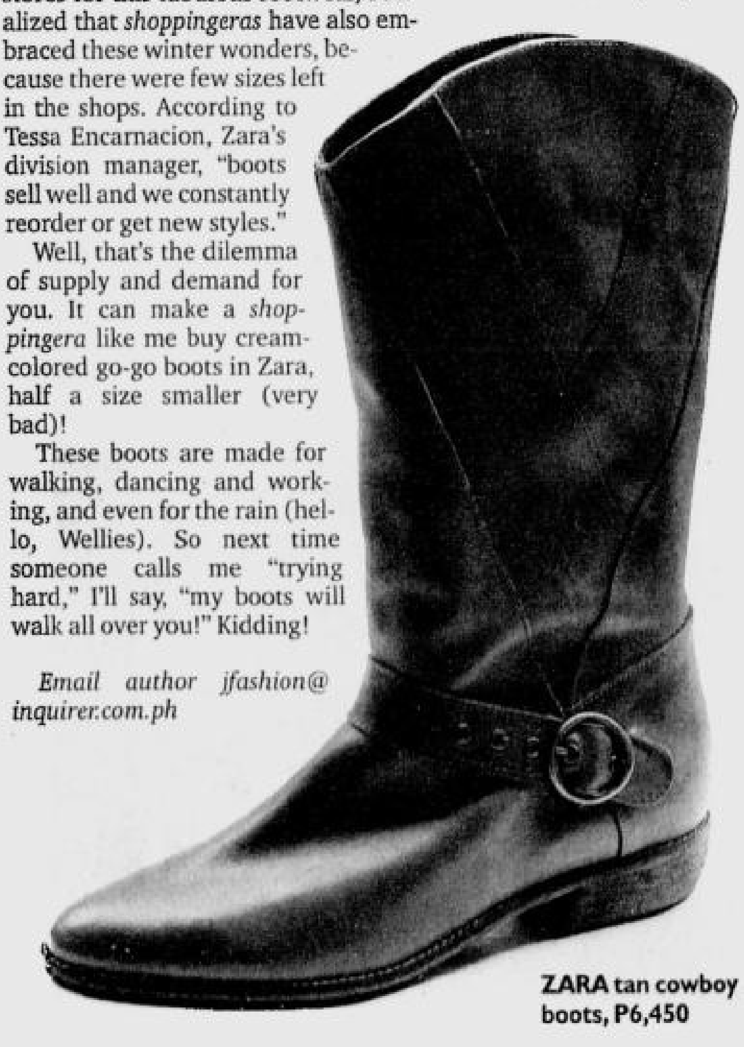
After scouring the stores for this fabulous footwear, I realized that *shoppingeras* have also embraced these winter wonders, because there were few sizes left in the shops. According to Tessa Encarnacion, Zara's division manager, "boots sell well and we constantly reorder or get new styles."

Well, that's the dilemma of supply and demand for you. It can make a *shoppingera* like me buy cream-colored go-go boots in Zara, half a size smaller (very bad)!

These boots are made for walking, dancing and working, and even for the rain (hello, Wellies). So next time someone calls me "trying hard," I'll say, "my boots will walk all over you!" Kidding!

Email author jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

ZARA black ankle-high boots, P5,950



ZARA tan cowboy boots, P6,450

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INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Cape crusaders

Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

DESPITE HAVING LEARNED his lesson well, South African fashion designer Malcolm Kluk can't help but cringe whenever he resorts to such adjectives as "westernized" and "refined" to describe the techniques he and partner Christiaan (yes, with a double A) Gabriel Du Toit usually channel.

"Terrible words," Kluk says in mock horror, as we ask him how he and Du Toit are able to draw from their African roots without making their clothes appear, well, too traditional.

Simple, actually. They consciously make an effort to update and polish their creations, which consist of anything from ready-to-wear party dresses and office separates to made-to-order bridal gowns and red-carpet numbers, to appeal to an "international" market.

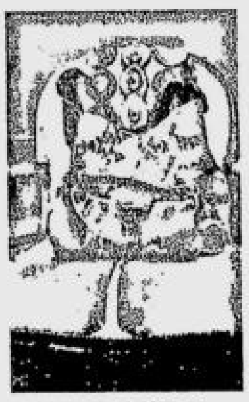
Apart from a swelling homegrown clientele, the two cater with increasing regularity to Saudi princesses, European high flyers, moneyed tourists and even A-list celebrities such as Beyoncé Knowles and Charlize Theron.

"We've never had a huge black client base," says Du Toit, "but it has been growing day by day. Besides having more money to spend, they've learned to hone their taste and are no longer afraid to go a bit wild."

The duo had been designing clothes on their own for almost two decades until they decided to put a shop together late last year in Cape Town. The result is Kluk CGDT, a rather unwieldy name for a supposedly hip label that churns out clothes in the designers' well-lighted and spacious Green Point atelier (www.kluk.co.za).

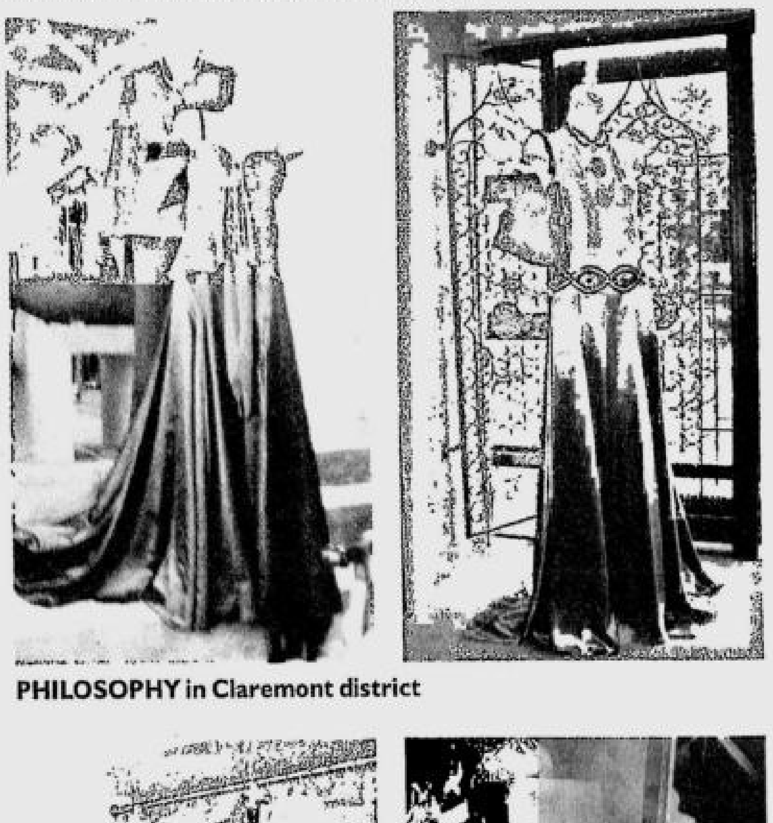
Together with veteran designer Jenni Button, Kluk and Du Toit now form part of Cape Town's burgeoning fashion scene. Dubbed by many as the continent's fashion capital, the city was the site of Motorola's latest product launch.

As part of the official itinerary, journalists from all over the world went on a day-long "design" tour of Cape Town, which included quick stops at Kluk CGDT and Philosophy. Owned by Button (www.jennibutton.com), the latter has nothing to do with its more famous namesake associated with Alberta Ferretti.



ANIMAL-PRINT bag by Button

Thanks to designers like Malcolm Kluk, Christiaan Gabriel Du Toit and Jenni Button, South African design has taken on whole new layers, nuances and directions



PHILOSOPHY in Claremont district

CHRISTIAAN Gabriel Du Toit

JENNI Button

Fresh from joining Cape Town's recently concluded fashion week, Kluk vividly recalls the time when a female South African Cabinet minister went to him to have a dress made. Since she was representing the country abroad, the designer assumed she wanted to look "African" and promptly made her a long, printed outfit that would probably make singer Erykah Badu hyperventilate. Man, was he wrong!

"I hadn't the slightest idea that she wanted to look international," he says. "She wanted to look good, but at the same time she wanted to fit in."

It was a lesson Kluk took to heart without totally abandoning his African roots. Why should he, when the continent he calls home is teeming with rich influences—from bright and colorful fabrics mirroring images found in a safari to big and layered white Victorian-inspired numbers associated with women in Ghana and the Ivory Coast?

Epiphany

The late Filipino designer and National Artist Ramon Valera must have had a similar epiphany when he defied conventions by overhauling the traditional *baro't saya* almost 60 years ago. He removed the two-piece attire's *panuelo*, but not its trademark butterfly sleeves, before melding everything into one outfit that gave it a more European flavor.

Thus, the terno was born. It was only a matter of time before former First Lady Imelda Marcos, in her resplendent butterfly-sleeved numbers, charmed the rest of the world. Like Valera, Kluk and company are proud to draw inspiration from their roots.

"Living in Africa is actually an advantage," says the British-educated Kluk, who once worked as a stylist and fashion editor of Cosmopolitan's South African edition. "For one, it enables us to form our own perspectives as we go about interpreting an international trend."

They've taken, for instance, the various laces that make up traditional African dresses and appliquéd them all over a new dress with cutouts and a more streamlined silhouette. The result is a more westernized (that word again) version that's unique yet current enough to stand out anywhere in the world.

Indeed, there's synergy in numbers, as the pair also draws from each other's strengths. Du Toit shares Kluk's passion for fabrics, including those used in a number of furniture pieces.

But while Du Toit, who grew up in a family composed mostly of women, is focused more on details, Kluk makes it a point to look at the big picture by setting the label's creative direction.

Button's support system, on the other hand, is composed of an army of underprivileged women who work as the designer's beaders, embroiderers and sewers. She has two stores located in posh Claremont and Willowbridge districts.

Apart from empowering these women, Button also takes pride in supporting several ostrich farms that supply materials for her bags, jackets and shoes sold not only in South Africa, but also in select stores in Europe and the United States. She also holds annual "boudoir sales" in London, Paris, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York, among other cities.

"Because of cheap imports," she says, "the rag trade in Cape Town has lost a lot of opportunities. That's why I make a conscious effort to promote women and teach them skills. I myself feel a sense of empowerment from my dealings with underprivileged people."

In order to stand out from the rest, Button, like Kluk and Du Toit, relies on the services of an in-house publicist as well as outside marketing and PR consultants. Indeed, no matter how enterprising a designer is, such mundane yet vital concerns are better left to professionals.

Tailored suits

As a designer, Button has come a long way. When she first broke into the scene 20 years ago, her streamlined and tailored suits reminded South African journalists of similar pieces done by Giorgio Armani and Donna Karan.

Small wonder, since these designers happen to be Button's idols. These days, however, she's more known for her "goddess" gowns that seem to mirror the design sensibilities of Roberto Cavalli and Dolce & Gabbana, with shades of Donatella Versace and Prada thrown in.

Her body-hugging pieces, for instance, not only show ample skin, but also make use of such signature materials as animal prints (she's a true-blue South African, remember?), lace and satin. She still carries a few tailored pieces that mirror the current military and Victorian rage as well as African-printed tops dubbed as Mandela shirts.

"I used to be known more for structured lines," says Button in her store in Claremont, which has French- and African-inspired interiors. "I'm now more known for events. I no longer do boardrooms."

Events can mean anything from New Year's Eve parties to weddings, evening soirées to anniversaries. Button also has a considerable share of royalty and celebrity clients. Whether you're famous or not, however, she treats every woman with one goal in mind: Make her look beautiful.

"That's what they're after," she says, "but I often give them what they don't think they're after. Women often come to me asking for a little black dress, and leave the store an hour or two later wearing something in acid yellow and an ostrich bag in orange."

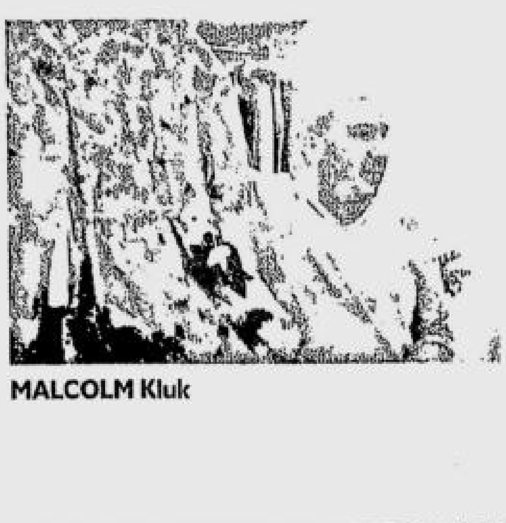
In the hands of these designers, the words "westernized" and "refined" suddenly gain whole different meanings to describe the layers, nuances and directions South African fashion has taken of late.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

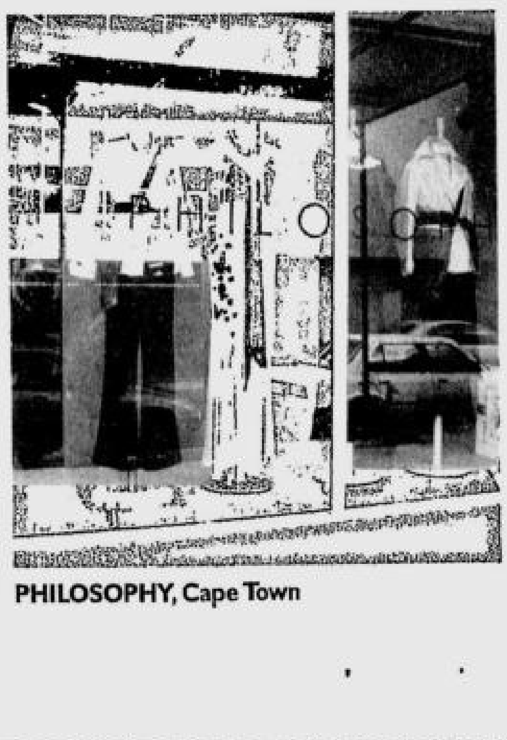
BUTTON

WWW.JENNIBUTTON.COM

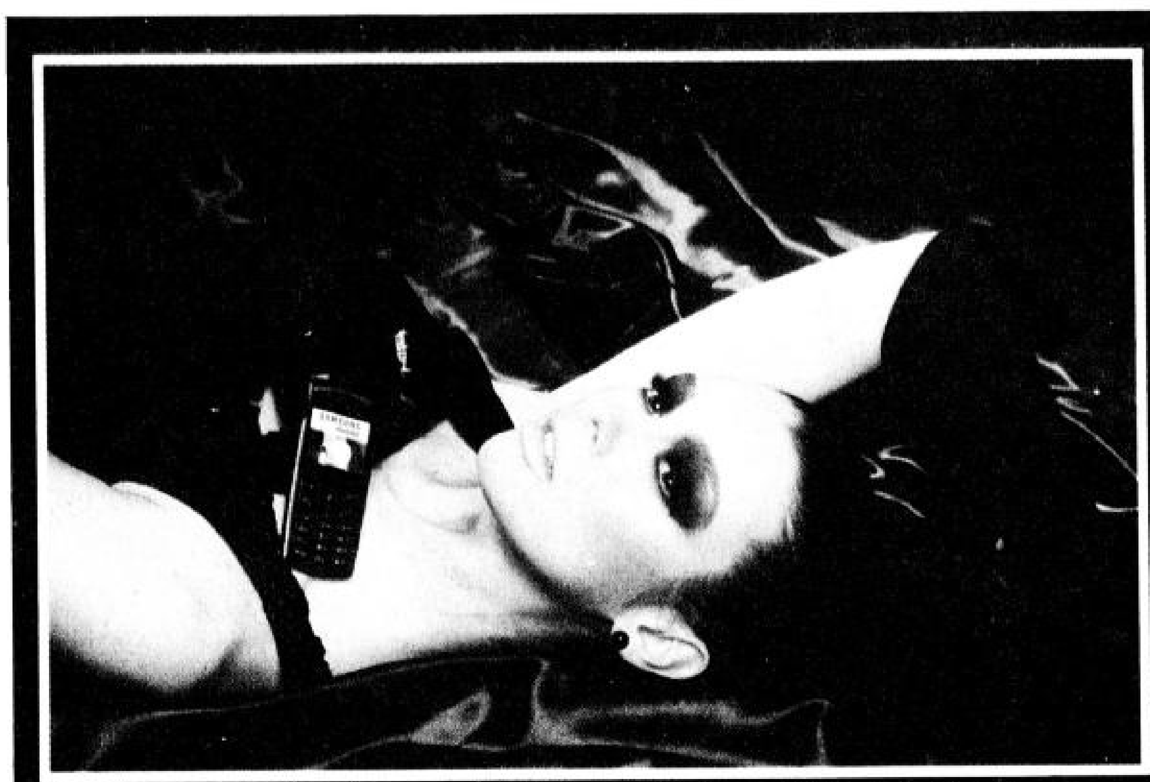
KLUK CGDT's atelier (above and below)



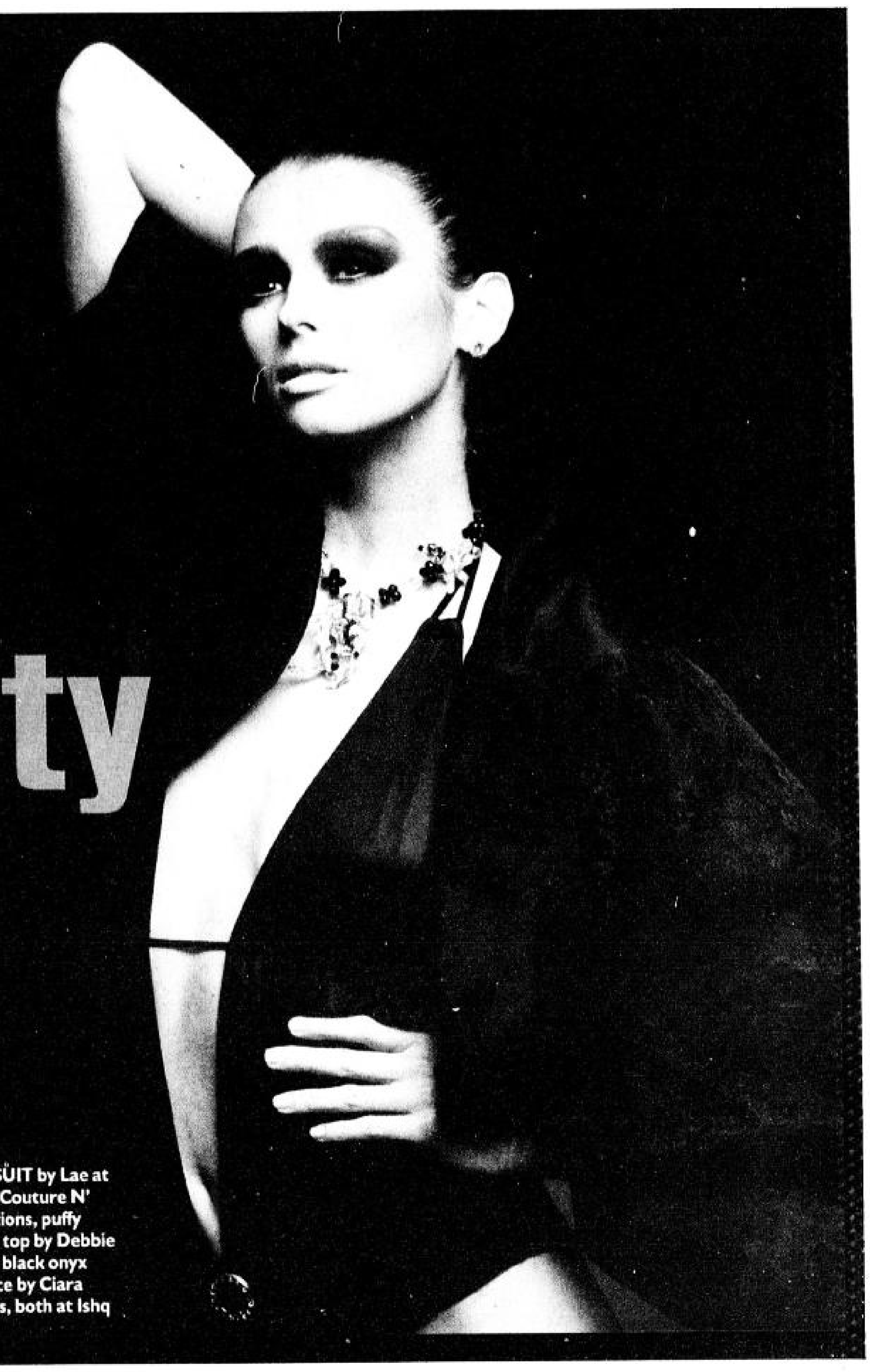
MALCOLM Kluk



PHILOSOPHY, Cape Town



SEQUINED top by Groovy Ann and crumpled taffeta bubble skirt by Debbie Co, both at Ishq



SWIMSUIT by Lae at Sy-Kat Couture N' Alterations, puffy sleeves top by Debbie Co and black onyx necklace by Ciara Creates, both at Ishq

Black beauty

The color of midnight spells sophistication, glamour and drama

By Cheche V. Moral

A LOT HAS BEEN SAID about the little black dress. It never gets dated—the classic staple any woman's wardrobe should have. It spells sophistication and chicness, glamour and drama.

The venerated LBD has gone through many incarnations, adapting to forms and shapes commanded by the trends. In this coming season, you will find the black dress take on new sculptured silhouettes, or the not-so-little form as it morphs into outlines that literally speak volumes.

Remember that black is the safest route to take to ease yourself into a trend. It's the sensible path that assures you're in tune to the season's hottest looks, yet it also guarantees that you can work that new black piece into your wardrobe long after the trend is over.

Take, say, a black bolero sporting bubble sleeves, or a classic black top to go with the metallic sheen of a lamé skirt. Then again, how can you go wrong with anything black in the season's layered looks?

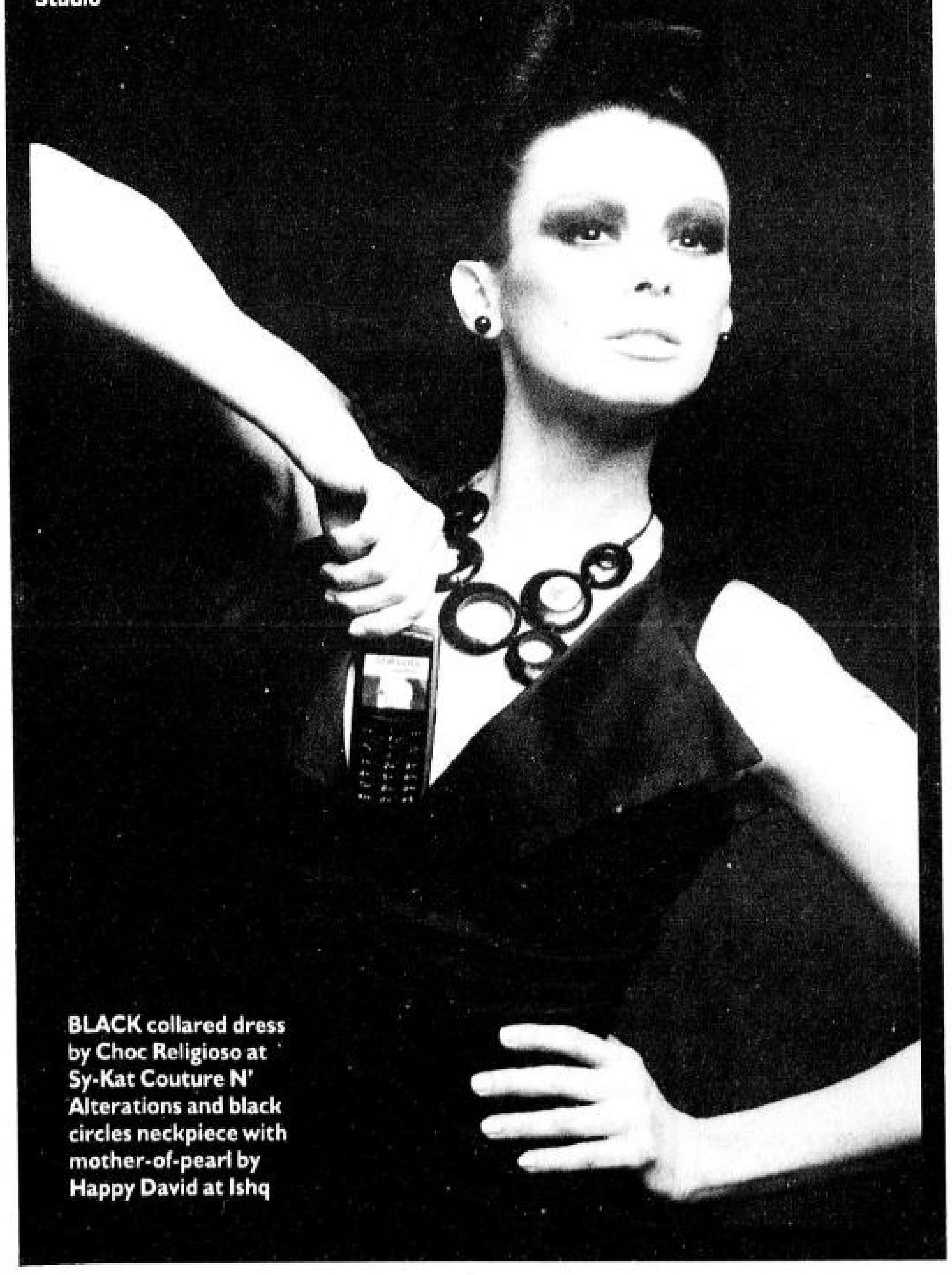
Even in technology, black remains the classic choice. After seasons of producing candy-colored and immaculate white laptops and desktop computers, for instance, Apple has revisited tradition with its new black MacBook Pro.

In the highly competitive cell phone industry, where these little high-tech gadgets are now being touted as the ultimate fashion accessories, the cell phone has taken every imaginable shape, size and color. One company, Samsung, has upped the bar by introducing the slimmest phone in the market, the Ultra Slim X820 (***See related story on page F4***). Unlike its competitors, Samsung's tack is straightforward and no-nonsense. No blinding surface metal sheen, just the sleek purity of this sliver of a black bar.

A classic in the making? Given the fast pace of technology, only time can tell. But for the moment, as they say, once you go black, you never go back.

PHOTOGRAPHY VICTOR CONSUNJI
STYLING GUADA REYES
MAKEUP ROBBIE PINEDA
HAIR FELICITY SO
MODEL MILENA FOR AHENSIYAMODELO

BLACK gown with lace by Danilo Franco, black crochet top with pearl buttons at Sy-Kat Couture N' Alterations, distressed heels by Gabrio Franco at Shoe Studio



BLACK collared dress by Choc Religioso at Sy-Kat Couture N' Alterations and black circles neckpiece with mother-of-pearl by Happy David at Ishq

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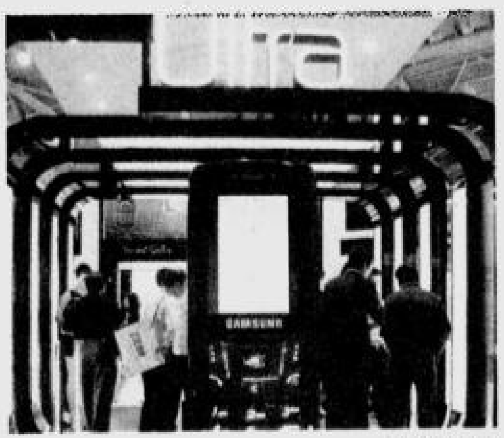


ANNE JAMBORA

Samsung's flimsy Ultra Edition phones—currently the slimmest handsets in the market—are a snug, perfect fit anywhere you choose to store them

D830, 9.9mm

Slim sensations

By Anne A. Jambora

AND THE RACE FOR THE slimmest cell phone is on. Well, at least not officially.

During the recent CommunicAsia 2006 held in Singapore, Samsung unveiled its new Ultra Edition line that boasts of the slimmest mobile handsets ever—the thinnest bar phone, the slimmest slider and the thinnest clamshell. The phones measure 6.9 mm, 12.9 mm and 9.9 mm, respectively, pushing the technological limits of slim designs a notch further than the brand's closest competitors.

Forget the nasty bulges and the uncomfortable bulk of some machine crammed into your pocket. Seamless and invisible, the flimsy Ultra Edition is a snug, perfect fit anywhere you choose to store it. Not only is the latest line attuned to the fashion-forward market, it also packs a whopping wallop of the bells and whistles mobile technology can offer.

Samsung "is famous for innovation. This is our idea of [technological] evolution," said Ihnchul Chung, senior VP for overseas sales and marketing team, mobile communication division of Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.

Blurring the line between multimedia functionality and personality, the Ultra Edition, depending on model, meets the various consumer demands for real-life applications into a single, sleek equipment. Camera resolution alone ranges from 2.0-3.13 megapixels, widescreen displays from 1.9-2.3 inches and bright, crystal clear 262K-color TFT.

Composed of the X820 (6.9mm), D900 (12.9mm) and D830 (9.9mm), the Ultra Edition comes with Bluetooth, USB and PictBridge capabilities, MP3/AAC/ACC+/WMA, video/voice recording and messaging (MPEG4/H.263), document viewer/TV output. Embedded with 80mb memory, all have extended memory slots for microSD save for the X820.

BAR NONE. The slimmest bar phone, X820, at only 6.9mm

Special materials

Given their slim profile and featherweight impression in your palm (66-85 g), the handsets may appear delicate and fragile. The Korean company, however, is quick to deny this.

"Materials used are similar to those used to build airplanes," Spencer H.J. Shim, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp., said. Extraordinary durability is achieved by using special materials like titanium, including a fiberglass-infused plastic.

Shim, who was among the first to use the Ultra Edition, said Samsung spends 10 percent of its annual gross to research and development, almost twice as much compared to competitors. This gives the company a clear edge on innovation and technological advancement.

"Before the Ultra Edition, Samsung didn't have slim phones. Now we have the slimmest [phone] in the world. [As a company, however,] we recognize that slimmest is not the important point," Shim said. It's understanding and making a holistic approach to all lifestyle segments is. After all, not everyone is into slim cell phones.

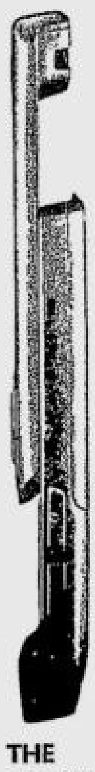
Samsung likes to cover all segments, carefully segregating each model for a specific market. The Ultra Edition, said Shim, is tailored for the design-conscious, targeting the carefree youth or the trendy executive.

"Lifestyle is a very broad spectrum; technology is not beautiful enough. Lifestyle in conjunction with technology is just one of the ideas of approaching the customer," explained Shim.

Challenger

With the launch of the Ultra Edition, Samsung is poised to successfully challenge the original purveyor of the slim cell phones, officially inaugurating a race for the thinnest.

However, Charles Choi, VP for information and technology-Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp., said the company's focus is how to better serve the market, not how to ride with the competition. Better ideas, quality and products are what would push the market to switch loyalties. In 2005 alone, Samsung mobile handsets consistently maintained a steady growth in its market share, selling an average of three phones every second.



THE SLIDER. D900, 12.9mm

The Ultra Edition has a fighting chance to put the company at the top of its game. Minhyuk Lee, mobile phone designer for Samsung, pointed out Samsung's edge in finding the balance between design and functionality. Battery life is just among the considerations: "We find the right balance of putting as many features needed and achieving the efficiency of battery consumption at the same time."

Content for the moment is directed on video, audio and data control, said Chung, but a time will come when the mobile phone will become the ultimate equipment. Already, multimedia appliances like television has been integrated into the Samsung cell phone. (Model not available locally.)

Convergence

Is the world really in your palm, as the company slogan implies?

The elite team of Samsung technology believes it is—or at least it will be in the near future. Progressive lifestyles increasingly demands mobility, and Samsung's R&D leads the way in digital convergence and helps revolutionize the way we live.

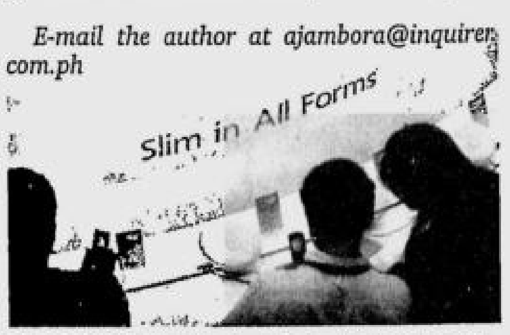
"While data and voice convergence is in full swing, wired and wireless convergence is beginning to gather momentum. All access to the network will be done wirelessly in the future, and we certainly intend to be a driving force in this market," Youngsoo Ryu, GM and SVP of Samsung, said.

Lee said mobile phones are predicted to battle it out against laptop PCs as consumer demands for multimedia functions continue to increase. Cell phones with multiple gigabytes of memory using NAND flash and the capability to access hundreds of megabits per second will be out in the market soon.

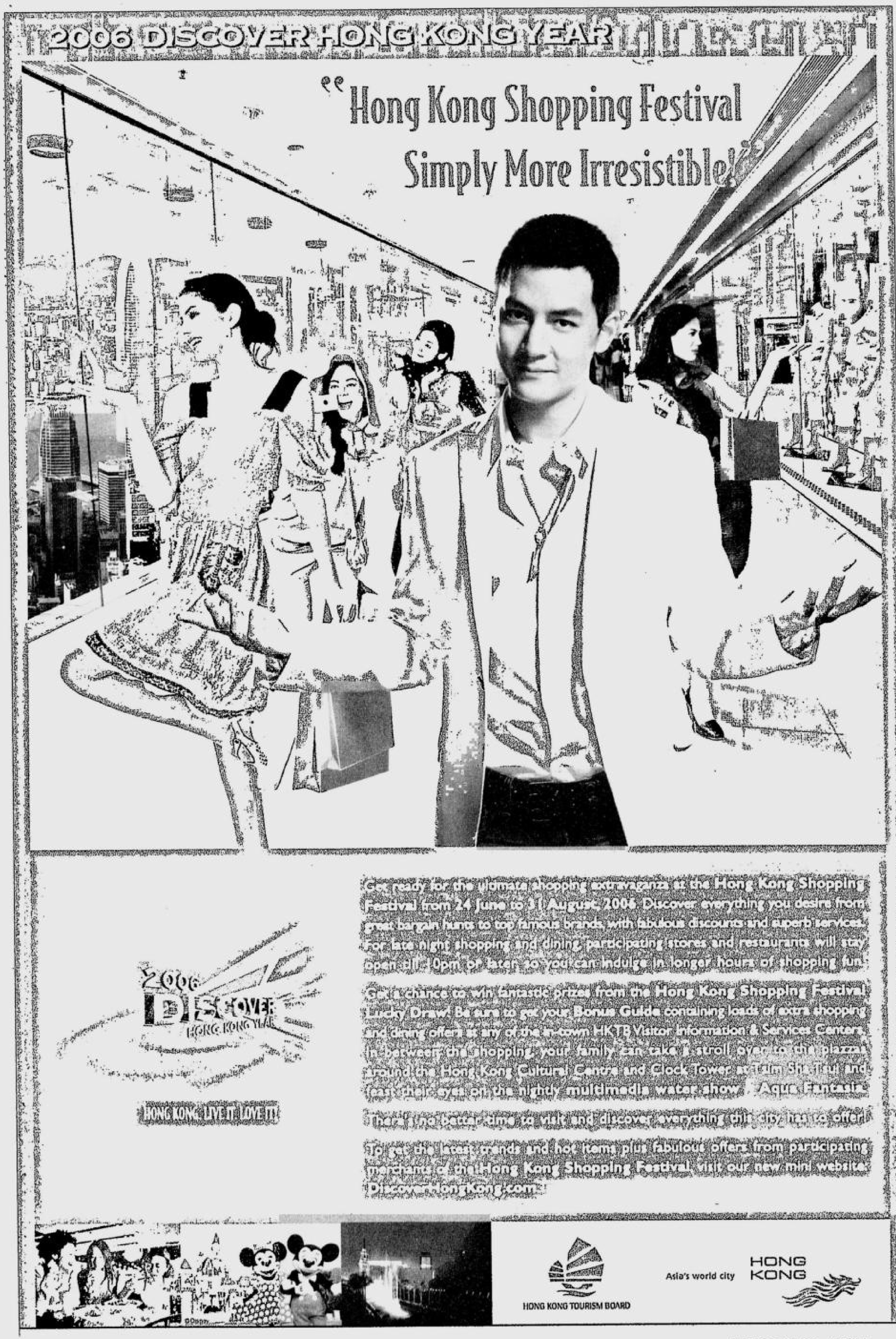
Will these next-generation cell phones be über slim as well? Not yet, perhaps, but Samsung's understanding of the computing power in cell phones puts them in the lead to address the meaning of true network convergence.

"[You'll never] know the kind of technology we will have in the future," said Chung.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



THE ULTRA (Unlimited Living Through Real Applications) Edition shatters the limits of slim design. ANNE JAMBORA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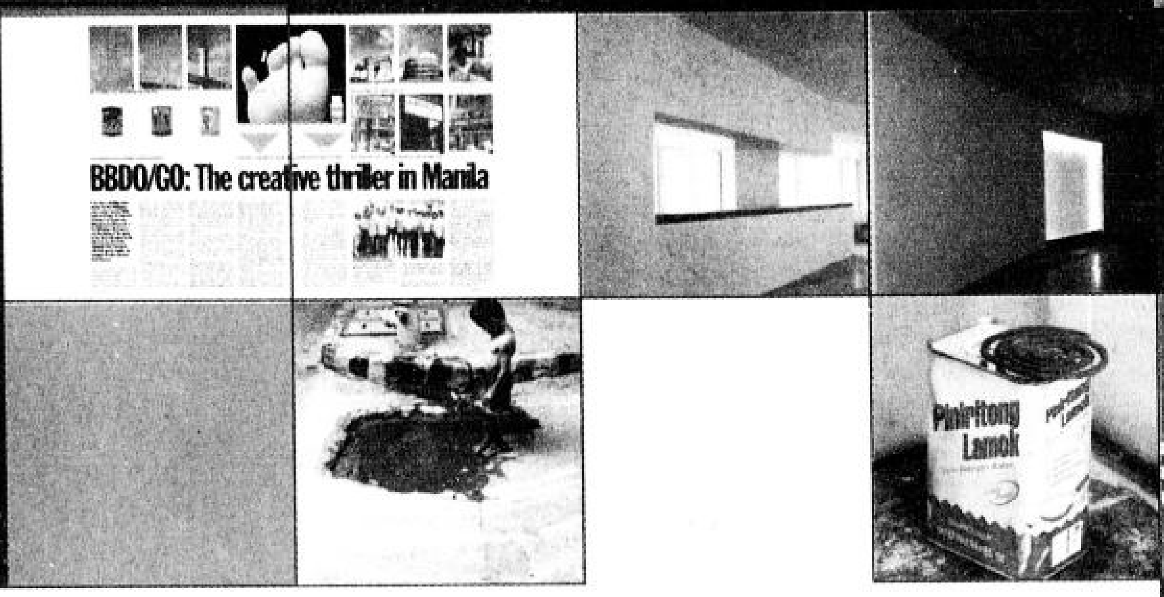
See the Big New Office

Exclusive pics on page 5

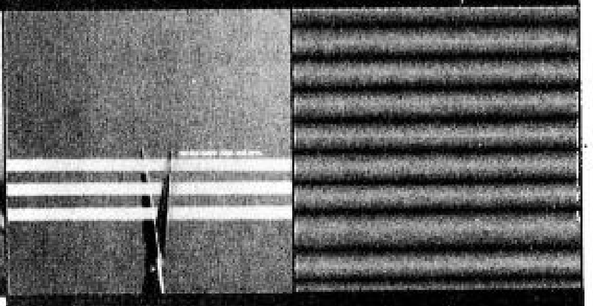
"... proving that being based in Manila does not mean you can't produce world-class ideas."

Agency of the Year, page 4


BBDO/GO: The creative thriller in Manila
Pinturong Lamok

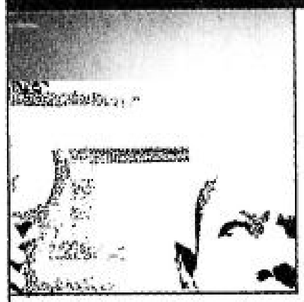
Get closer to your customers

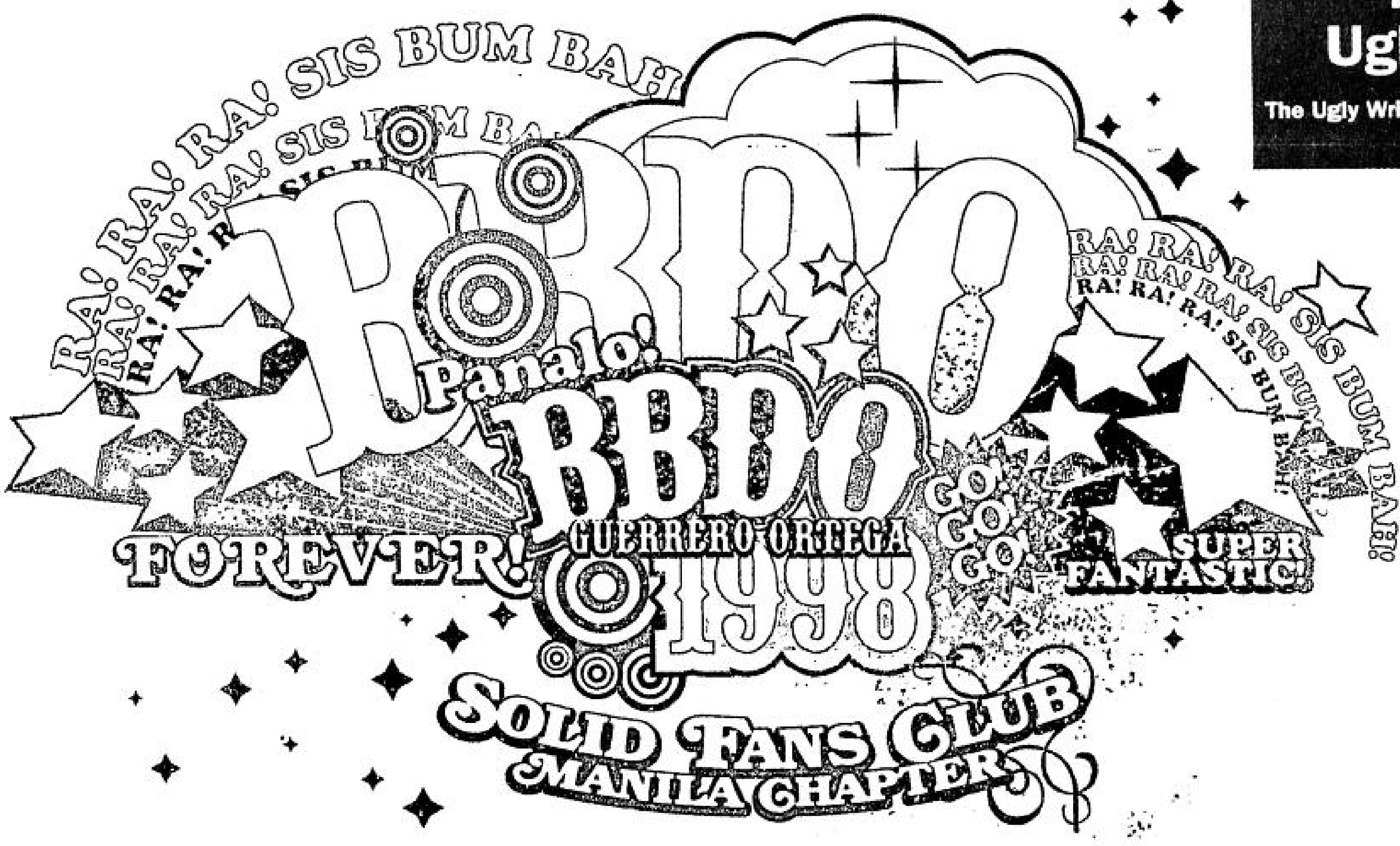
Our friends in Proximity, page 4

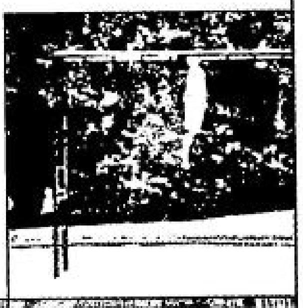


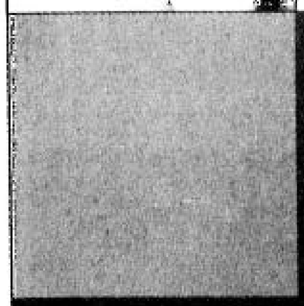
Meet the Ugly Students

The Ugly Writer's Advertising Course, page 4



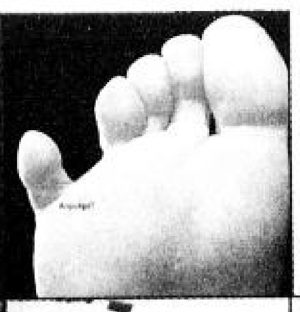

RA! RA! RA! SIS BUM BAH
RA! RA! RA! SIS BUM BA
RA! RA! RA! SIS BUM
BBDO
Panalo!
BBDO
GUERRERO ORTEGA
1998
FOREVER!
GO GO GO
SUPER FANTASTIC!
RA! RA! RA! SIS BUM BAH!
SOLID FANS CLUB
MANILA CHAPTER





You too could be a market leader!

The best ads work best, page 4



BUS FARE......₱14.00
CANCER-CAUSING PARTICLES......FREE
ICE

"Wow!"

Read what our clients say on page 8

WE HAVE 7,106 MORE

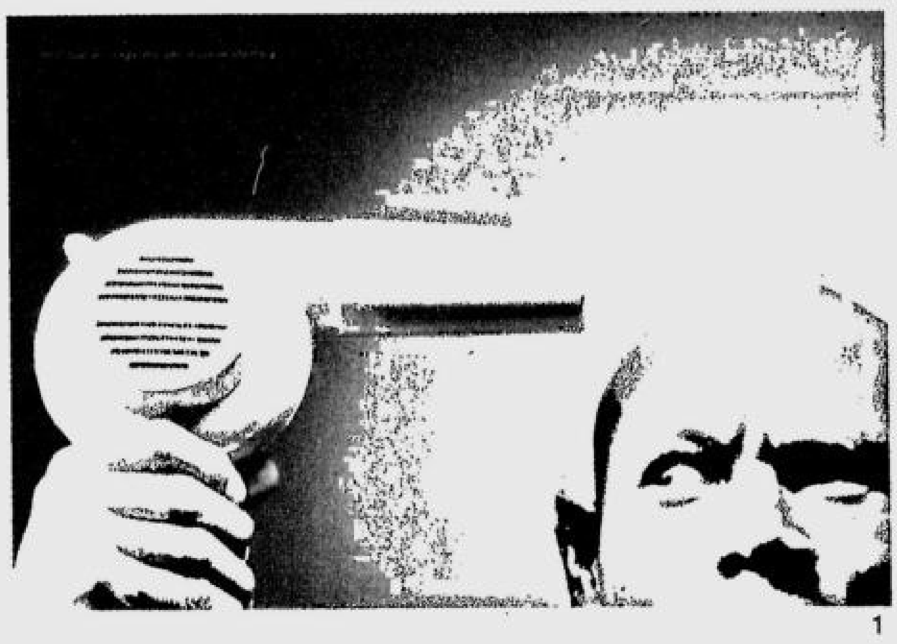
the work, the work, the work, the work, the work, the work, the work, the work.

8 great ads, page 2

Looking for an unmet consumer need?

Insights that incite, page 4

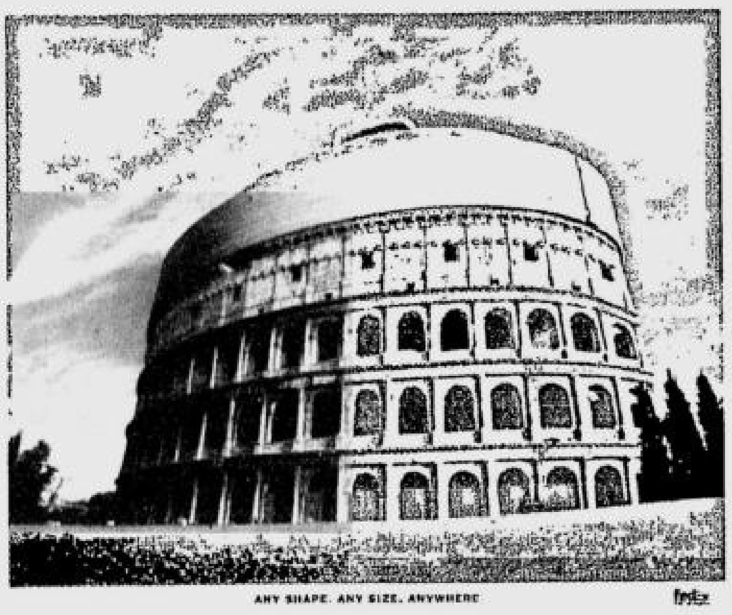
8 great ads



1

Tigok ang lamok.
Bayer
Piniritong Lamok

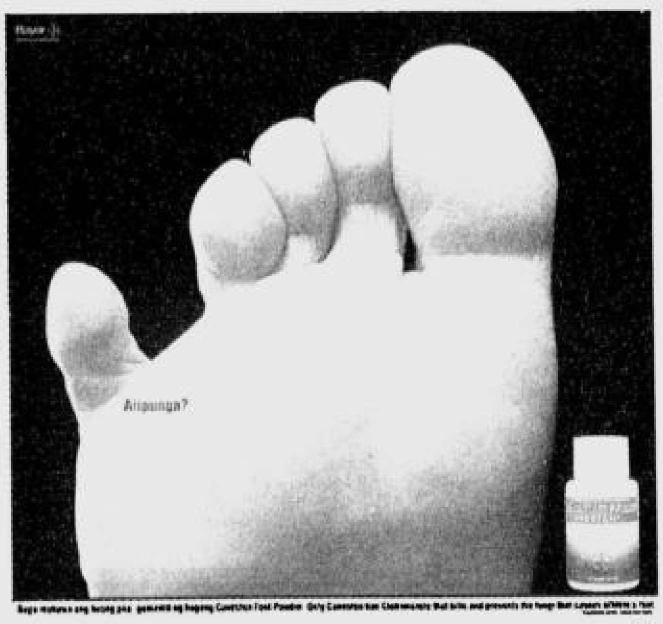
2


ANY SHAPE. ANY SIZE. ANYWHERE
FedEx

3

LET'S FACE IT, YOU'D BUY THE MAGAZINE ANYWAY.
FHM
PUT SOME LITTLE WORDS HERE!
LITTLE WORDS. LITTLE WORDS.
BIG WORDS GO HERE!
MORE LITTLE WORDS HERE!
BIG WORDS GO HERE TOO!
LITTLE WORDS SHOULD GO HERE.
SOME BIG WORDS GO HERE!
AND SOME LITTLE WORDS GO HERE.

4



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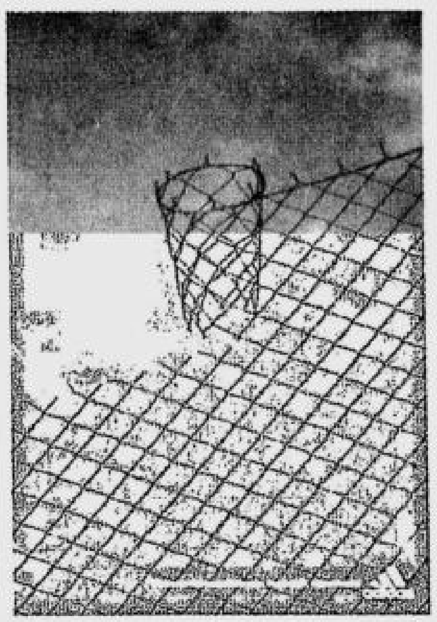
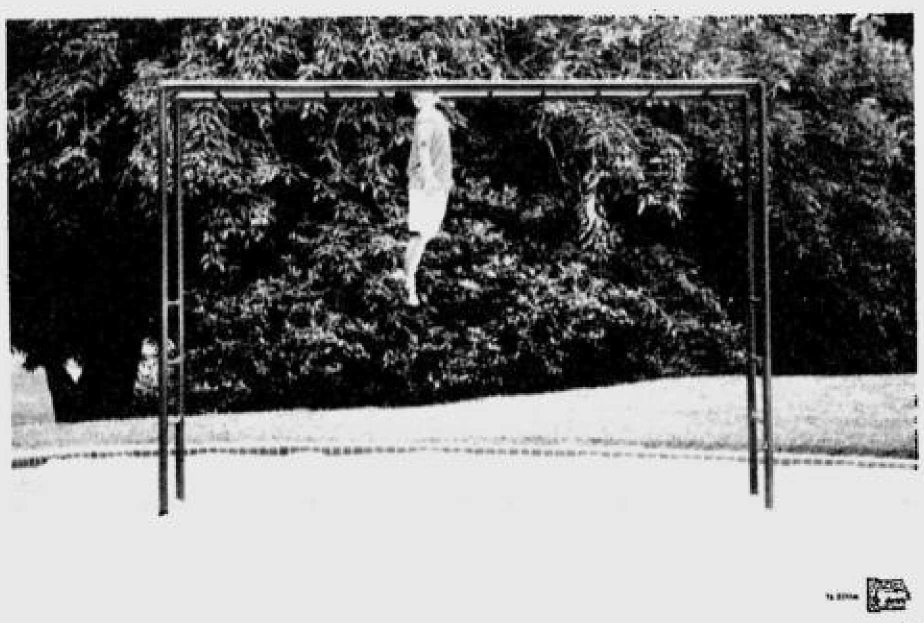


6

1. Our first ad for ourselves. Starring local movie legend Bembol Roco. It worked too. Bringing in a large local client and getting in the One Show.
2. Ad for Bayer, capitalizing on the uniquely local method of 'frying' mosquitoes by placing burning Baygon coils on old cooking oil cans.
3. Part of a campaign that ran across the Asia Pacific region. We shot the Colosseum for real, thanks to a timely BBDO Conference in Rome.
4. This campaign ran in the local edition of the magazine and was featured in AdAge. After that their head office felt it would 'give the wrong impression.' And asked us never to run it again. Which we haven't. Until now.
5. The simple truth about athlete's foot. This was named 'Ad of the Year' by the Creative Guild.
6. One of a series of ads for a street basketball competition.
7. The launch of Orbit for Kids was marked by the simple promise of stronger teeth.
8. This campaign for Childhope Asia Philippines appeared just before Christmas. A winner for the client (see page 4) and with the industry.



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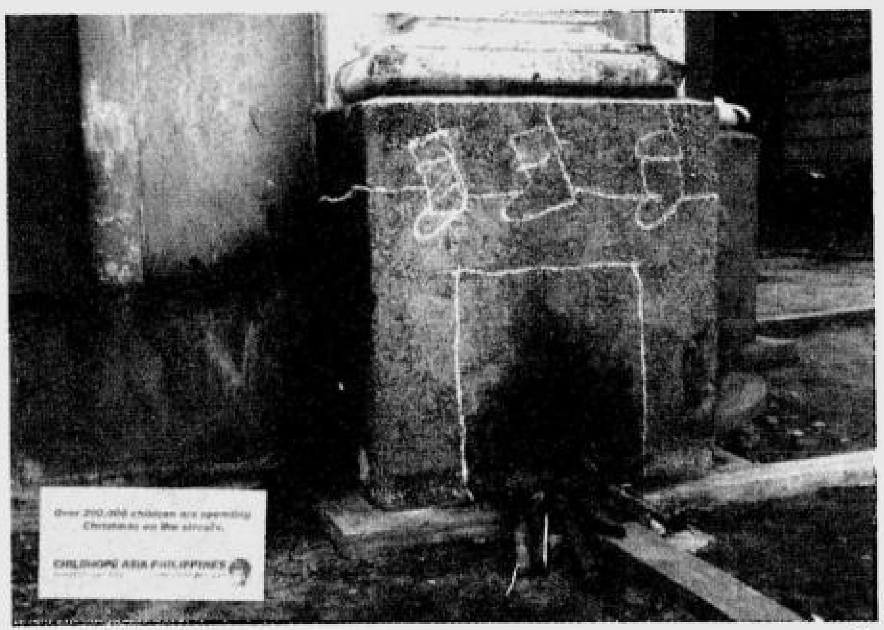

Over 200,000 children are spending Christmas on the streets.
CHILDHOPE ASIA PHILIPPINES

8

BBDO GO.
Great Fashion Statement.
bench/

We love the
New Exclusive Makeover!
hbc
Lahat tayo tatak exclusibo!
San San
COSMETICS

It's not the size
that matters.
It's what you do with it.
Wise Media

Thanks to BBDO GO,
our competitors are
scratching their heads.
Ketoconazole
NIZORAL
SHAMPOO

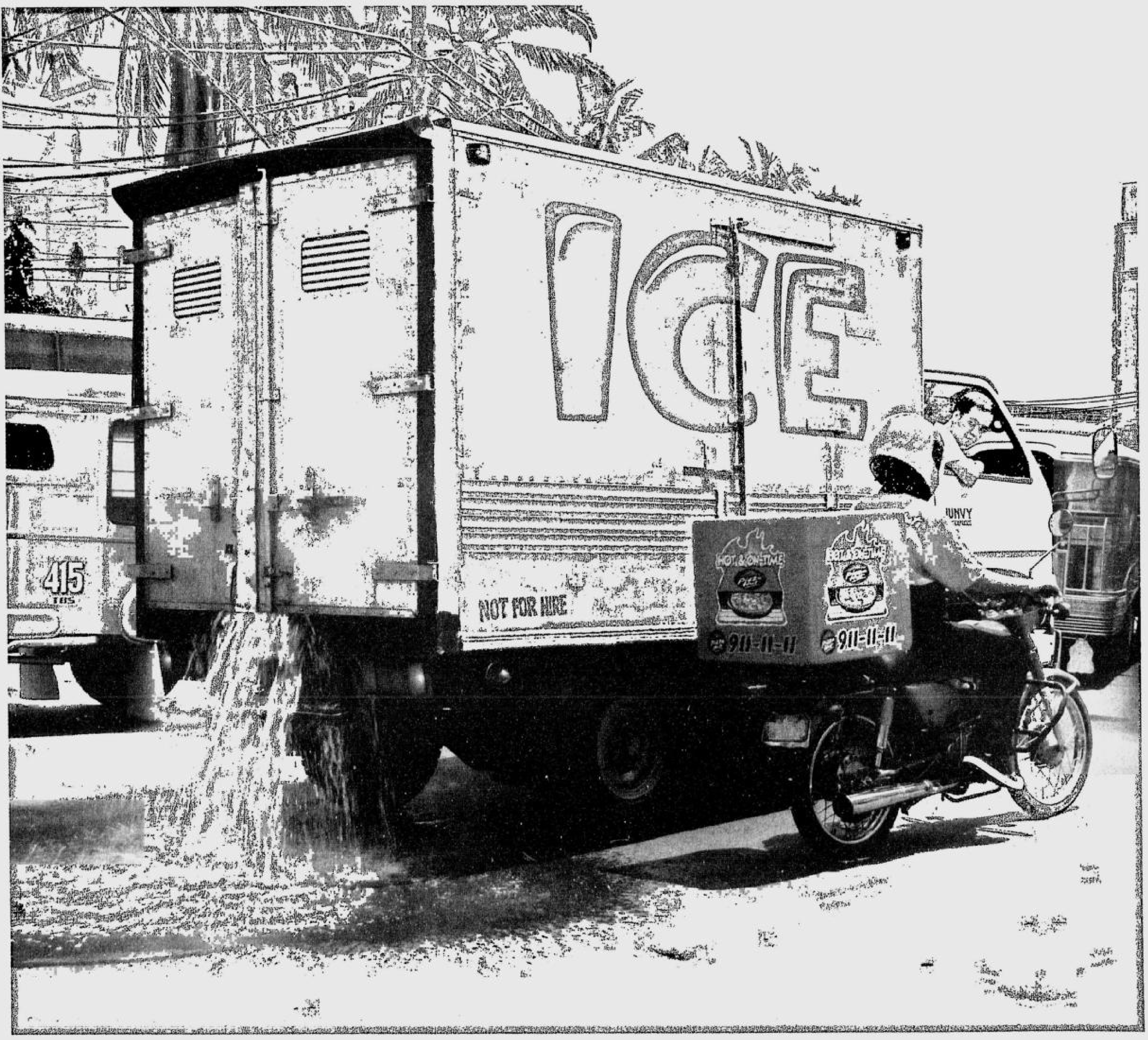
G-3

May the magic stay with you.

10 Years Enchanted Kingdom

Galing ng Pinoy! Go BBDO GO!

SPLASH CORPORATION


ICE
NOT FOR HIRE
415
HOT & ON-TIME
911-11-11
911-11-11

The best ads work best

Many clients of BBDO Guerrero Ortega have reported a marked rise in their companies' economic fortunes. Is this just coincidence or, as some believe, a natural consequence of the way the agency works? We consulted some experts.

The top worldwide executives of Procter & Gamble – chief executive officer A.G. Lafley and chief marketing officer Jim Stengel – share a common passion with BBDO GO: they strongly believe in the power of great creative in turning great business results. "We're asking for a great spirit of collaboration from our agencies ...we're asking them to always push to always raise the bar," Stengel asserted. Lafley put it simply – "We want to win at Cannes."

As consumers in the Information Age increasingly fall prey to the dizzying barrage of brand messages through technology-driven mass media, advertisers must find more creative ways to reach minds and prompt desired outcomes.

BBDO GO subscribes to the tenet that an idea must earn the right to exist and must reward the consumer for listening or taking notice - one needs to entertain as much as instruct.

This creative mindset determines BBDO GO's measure of advertising effectiveness. Repeatedly, the agency has come up with work that has earned the nod of peers in the industry and, more importantly, its clients who constantly look for tangible results.

Pizza Hut

Profiling consumers and second-guessing their desires and aspirations is an art and a skill. You know you've hit home when clients recognize you for boosting their revenues.

BBDO GO did two TV commercials for Pizza Hut. Both received a Yum Reel Award from the Kentucky-based Yum! Brands, Inc., the world's largest restaurant company in terms of system restaurants, which counts global market leaders Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Long John Silver's among its brands.

The first one, entitled "Mist," was chosen as one of two winners of the Yum Reel Award in the first quarter of 2006. The other winner was an entry from Japan.

A commentary from Yum! Restaurants International on the campaign reads: "This is a simple and effective communication of the fundamental imperatives of the pizza delivery business – hot and on-time.... Take note of that insightful scene when the customer grabs the box and reacts to the heat of the box itself – that's an everyday insight brought to life very well. Pizza Hut is alive and well in the Philippines, and Pizza Hut delivery stands for hot, fresh and on-time pizza."

The second, entitled "Ops," won the Yum Reel Award for the second quarter of 2006 – again one of only two winners worldwide. In his letter to the Philippine team led by Pizza Hut Vice President for Marketing Elaine Guzman, the Vice President of YRI Advertising Dan Sala said: "This is an ad that uses great insight to highlight the unique product benefit of the overstuffed Cheesy Volcano pizza. It includes some 'lick-of-the-screen' food photography that makes you crave this delicious pizza."

The Yum Reel Awards awarded to Pizza Hut Philippines and shared by BBDO GO were rare back-to-back wins in a field that includes hundreds of Yum brands commercials from all over the world.

Biolink

Combining naughty humor with a surprise ending, BBDO GO's magic turned heads towards Biolink Green Papaya Soap, a product of Splash Corporation.

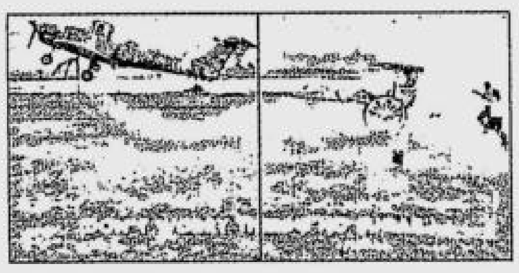
Aiming to grab a significant market share from the leading brand, BBDO GO sought to target young, smart and image-conscious Filipina "morena" women who might be feeling that a superior whitening product would give them the same opportunities as their fairer peers.

The message was simple: use Biolink Green Papaya Soap instead of the leading brand because Biolink contains 100% more whitening power.

With that, two TVCs were developed: "Birth" and "Christening," featuring a fair-skinned woman who gave birth to a dark-skinned baby. The commercials elicited a grin among viewers and at the same time, drove home the message.

In only a few months, Biolink Green Papaya Soap jumped to market leadership with an average sales increase of more than 200%. The brand has since spawned a series of line extensions, becoming a master brand in its own right.

Pepsi MAX



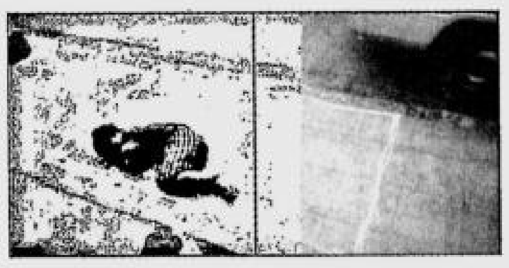
Popular worries about too much sugar in soft drinks drove BBDO GO to craft a campaign for Pepsi MAX that dramatizes a fearful scenario and contrasts it with the relief that you don't have to worry about sugar.

The campaign targeted young, health-conscious urban Filipino males who like the taste of carbonated drinks but don't necessarily patronize them. To convince the target market, BBDO GO developed the message that with Pepsi MAX you could have the taste without the sugar and delivered it in a humorous way.

The TV commercial showed a young man aboard a "caretela" not drawn by a horse but by a single-engine plane. The TVC finishes with the line: "Max Masarap – Don't Worry, There's No Sugar."

Within three months of the launch, Pepsi MAX contributed over 40% to the annual growth of the Pepsi brand in the Philippine market. And volumes are continuing to grow month on month as investment in the campaign continues.

Childhope Asia Philippines



It's not always a consumer product, though, that BBDO GO sells. Some of its clients are charitable foundations or non-government organizations.

One such client is Childhope Asia Philippines – an international, non-profit, non-sectarian organization advocating the cause of street children. It seeks to liberate children from sufferings caused by working and living on the streets.

Last Christmas, the foundation was delighted to find out that more corporate and individual donors were willing to extend a helping hand to bail more children out of Manila's streets – thanks to a series of "disturbing" TV and print ads that BBDO GO created. Among the companies which responded positively were Toyota, Lucent, Unilever and HSBC.

In her letter to the agency, Childhope Asia Philippines executive director Teresita Silva said: "Through your ads, we are more visible to the public and more people are encouraged to make a difference in the lives of street children in Metro Manila."

The ads titled "Chalk" won for BBDO GO two gold awards for print and television during the Araw Awards of the biennial Philippine Advertising Congress held in Cebu last year. Since then the Christmas campaign won the country's first Lion for Outdoor at the Cannes International Advertising Festival. Most importantly, though, they worked for the client and helped rescue Filipino children from a life on the streets.

The ads showed street children using a pothole on the street as a pool or the sidewalk as a bed. Both the imaginary pool and the bed are outlined by drawings in white chalk.

Unmet consumer needs

All four brands, like the rest that BBDO GO manages, received the kind of nurturing that David Guerrero describes as a framework that starts with identifying the "unmet consumer need" and proceeds to come up with the best communication by breaking down in simplest possible terms "what it is we want to get someone to do by saying the right thing".

Our close friends in Proximity

Proximity is all about getting close. For us, it means getting our clients' brands closer to their customers, not only through direct marketing, interactive, activation, promotional marketing or data consultancy, but also by delivering breakthrough behaviour changing ideas.

We are, after all, in the business of 'changing behaviour'. This is because of a simple truth: Existing customer behaviour manifests itself in an organisation's current profit and loss figures. If you can change customer behaviour to the advantage of that organisation, it has a direct and positive impact on that organisation's profit and business health. We develop breakthrough behaviour-changing ideas based on powerful insights that enable us to choose the most appropriate way to speak with the consumer.

Proximity combines best-in-class skills across the full range of direct and relationship marketing to deliver excellent and measurable results for a client list that includes Enchanted Kingdom, Wrigley, Pacific Internet, Standard Chartered, Unilab and Taco Bell.

Proximity Worldwide started in 2000 and is owned by Omnicom. For the last three years, Proximity has been ranked the top direct and relationship agency network by the Won Report. With agency offices in nearly 50 countries around the world, Proximity is a network of the best local talent, globally traded. Proximity Philippines is the new partner of, and addition to the BBDO Guerrero Ortega Group.

Insights that incite

In the quest for ever more effective total brand communications that meet the needs of today's challenging and aggressive business environment, BBDO Guerrero Ortega has launched a proprietary strategic framework called InciteWork.

InciteWork allows brand owners a way to keep pace with the changing realities of consumers' lives, and uncover ways in which a brand, product or service can fulfill a previously unmet consumer need.

Identifying an unmet consumer need unlocks new opportunities for the sustainable growth of brands, products and services and reveals how communication can trigger this growth.

InciteWork works not only by identifying a previously unmet need, but by understanding how communication can be focused on the desired consumer behavior to deliver growth by capitalizing on this unmet need.

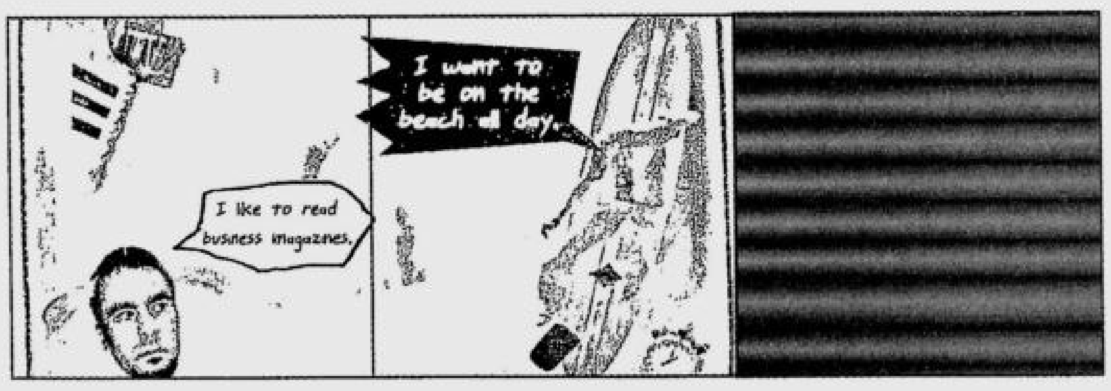
It changes the role of brand communication from a passive reflector of consumers' wants and desires to an initiator and instigator of new behavior. It thereby results in adding value to our clients' brands and growth to their business.

It is, in essence, ensuring that we move from consumer insight alone to an understanding of how we can use insight to incite consumers to action.

It's about getting consumers to DO something as a result of our communication, because at the end of the day, a sale only happens, and our work only succeeds, when consumers DO something.

InciteWork is already transforming the way consumers in The Philippines do their banking, the way they style their hair, enjoy soft drinks, go about their beauty regimen, celebrate their success with brandy and the way they choose which car to drive.

To find out how we can help incite your consumers to action and unlock new opportunities for you and your brand, please call Randy Aquino, Managing Director, at (632) 892 0701 for a presentation.


I want to be on the beach all day.
I like to read business magazines.

The Ugly Writer's Advertising Course

by the Ugly Writer

The aim was noble: to provide free education to impoverished students and raise the quality of young creatives joining the industry. If we happened to chance upon some hot and hirable new talent along the way then, well, we could live with that.

So we wrote an examination paper and ran it as full-page ad in PDI. Sample questions: you're 50 km from home with no phone, no money and two broken legs - how would you get back? Design a logo for loneliness. Persuade Angelina Jolie to drop Brad Pitt for the writer of this exam.*

Contrary to appearances, these questions were not the random ramblings of a desperate virgin. Based on proven creative and psychological techniques, they were in fact carefully selected to attract and assess the country's most exciting young minds.

Either way, the exam worked. We received more than 200 applications, twice as many as we'd hoped for. After intense interviews, creative tests and further psychological probing we somehow ended up with our ten Ugly Students.

A 3 month curriculum was painstakingly drawn up to cover everything from *Writing Half-Decent Radio* to *Taking Ideas Further through Total Work* – and the students were set to work. Finally, exhausted but enlightened, they reached the end of the course.

They were asked to submit a campaign for the Philippine Cancer Society to earn their diplomas, which were handed out at a lavish awards night and graduation ceremony. During which they proved they could hold their liquor far better than certain unnamed course administrators.

So what now? For the students, a glittering future we hope. Several of them are already slaving away for the agency but all ten have what it takes.

As for the Ugly Writer's Advertising Course, it will be back. New, improved and under a different name. We just hope we track down another equally talented, enthusiastic, likeable and above all, hideously ugly bunch.

*Keep it quiet but thanks to the exam, Angelina and I did have a brief fling. Although she'll probably deny it if you ask her.

The Ugly Writer thanks Adobo Magazine, Team Manila and Enchanted Kingdom for their kind sponsorship; Simon Welsh, Carol Ong, Joel Limchoc, Raoul Panes, David Guerrero, Randy Aquino, Paul Roebuck, Rey Tiempo, Hermie De Leon, Al Salvador, Jay-ar Iringan, Karen Go, Edg Samson and Patti Lee for sacrifices made in the name of education; and Jael, Meggy, Marco, Ma'an, Puring, Patrick, Sasha, Tim, Tiffany and Yasmin for making the course such a worthwhile experience. You're all beautiful.

The Teachings of the Ugly Writer
Meggy de Guzman

BBDO Guerrero Ortega named Agency of the Year

BBDO Guerrero Ortega has long been recognized as one the region's most exciting places to take your business. Now it's official.

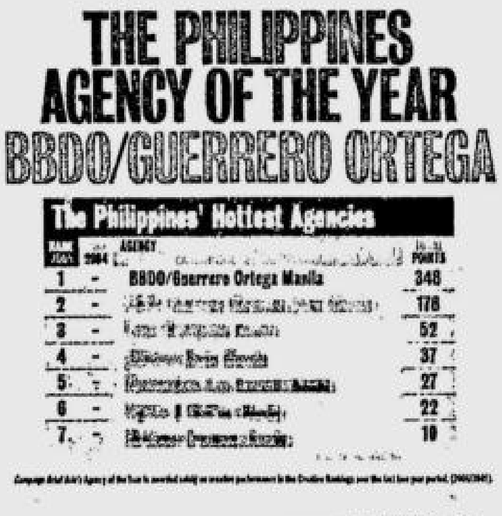
It is currently ranked Agency of the Year in the Philippines for 2005 by Campaign Brief Asia magazine, considered the "Creative Bible" of the Asian advertising industry.

This reaffirms the position of BBDO GO as the country's most internationally recognized agency, after it was named one of the world's 100 best agencies by the prestigious Gunn Report last November.

"Being named Agency of the Year is particularly satisfying as this is the first time that Campaign Brief Asia has done a ranking for the Philippines," said BBDO GO chairman David Guerrero.

BBDO GO Chief Consultant Paul Roebuck added that it is recognition of the agency's effectiveness in helping their clients' businesses through powerful creative ideas.

Campaign Brief Asia publisher Kim Shaw commented, "There is no doubt David Guerrero and his team have proven that being based in Manila does not mean you can't produce world-class ideas."



THE PHILIPPINES
AGENCY OF THE YEAR
BBDO/GUERRERO ORTEGA

The Philippines' Hottest Agencies

RANK 2005	2004	AGENCY	POINTS
1	-	BBDO/Guerrero Ortega Manila	348
2	-	[illegible]	178
3	-	[illegible]	52
4	-	[illegible]	37
5	-	[illegible]	27
6	-	[illegible]	22
7	-	[illegible]	10

ADVERTISING BOARD OF THE PHILIPPINES CODE OF ETHICS
ARTICLE 4, SECTION 1: COMPARISON ADVERTISING

1. Direct comparison advertising shall not be allowed.

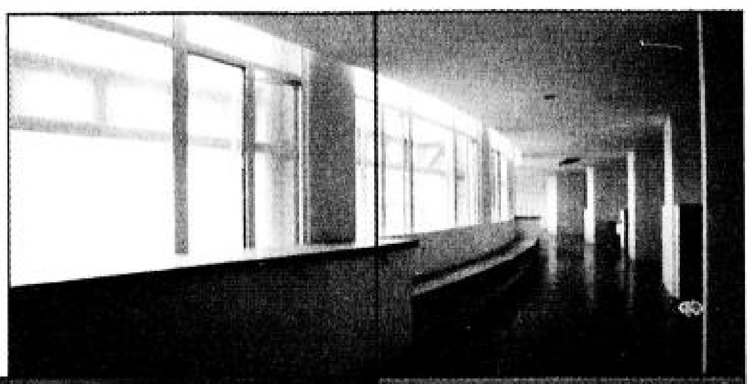
A bigger space for bigger ideas

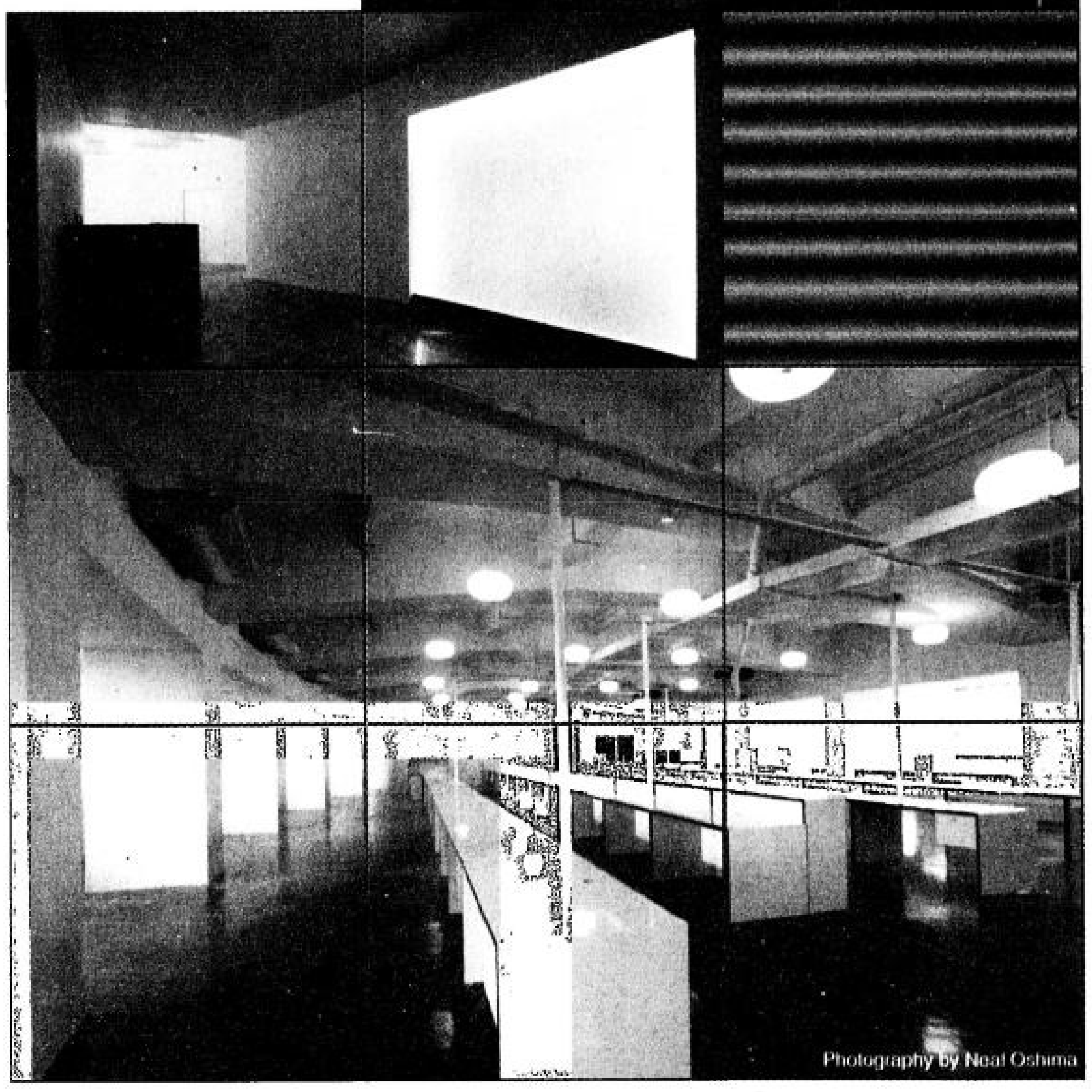
After eight years of growth, BBDO Guerrero Ortega and Proximity finally ran out of space. So the search began for the Big New Office. They ended up choosing the Insular Life Building on the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas. Because it's big and it's got a theater.

The London-trained architect Marta Pedrosa was briefed to create an open environment that would encourage collaboration and communication. *Nobody* was to have their own office. It was also made clear that the space should reflect the agency's own high standards of powerful, innovative and world-class design.

The result is impressive. You enter through a long hallway lit only by the light that comes through an opaque glass screen on which movies, music videos and ads can be played. Behind the screen is the bar, complete with possibly the world's first concrete barstools, and beyond that an open workplace that makes the most of the existing structure.

"The aim was to create an exceptional space where from the moment you enter clients and employees alike would feel part of a vibrant, creative and confident organization," notes Pedrosa. It looks like they've succeeded.



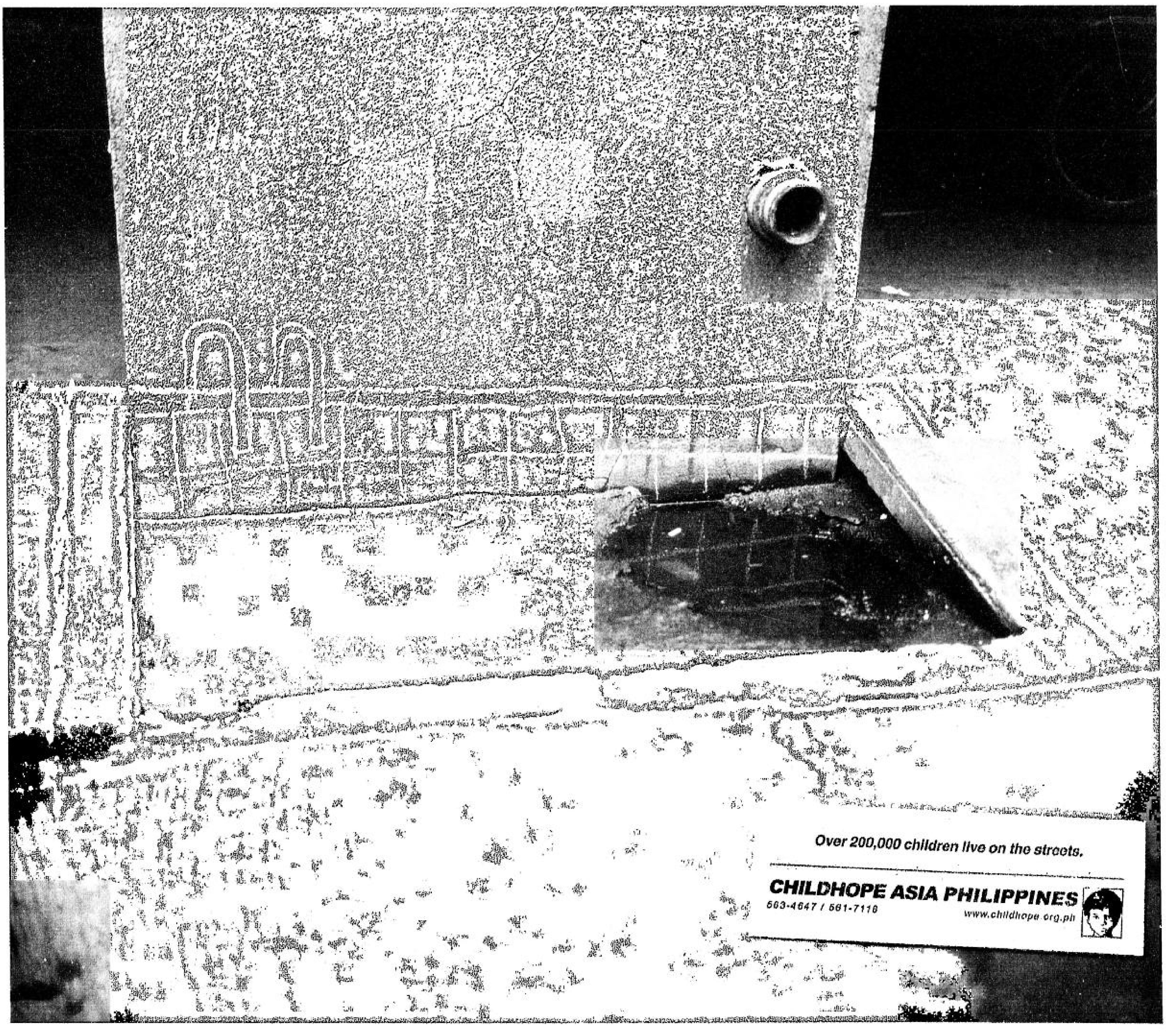


Photography by Neal Oshima

Eight years and aiming higher.

Kaya mo 'to!

PEPSI



Over 200,000 children live on the streets.

CHILDHOPE ASIA PHILIPPINES

563-4647 / 561-7110

www.childhope.org.ph

We're glad to be working with such pros!

PRODUCTION VILLAGE

Scene 8. Int. Big new office. (SFX: crowd cheers)

unitel
PRODUCTIONS

You ad experts make us look good.

FILM EXPERTS
FILMEX
INCORPORATED

Actioooooooooooon!!!

(Your big new office is a great location.)

ElectroMedia

Best-in-class.
More legroom.
Climate control.

Congratulations on the big new office.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES

Walking around your big new office is good for the heart. (Congratulations!)

QUAKER

Congratulations on your 8th Anniversary!

VISA
All it takes.

We love your LBM (Latest Big Move!)

LOPERAMIDE
IMODIUM

Pinakamagaling! Congratulations on your 8th anniversary.

Pizza Hut

BBDO GO: the science of better ads.

Bayer HealthCare
Science for a Better Life.

BBDO GO. Sa mas malaking tagumpay.

EMPERADOR
BRANDY
Solera Reservada

DRINK MODERATELY

9-8

BBDO Guerrero Ortega thanks its clients for 8 memorable years. (And vice-versa.)

"Congratulations on your 8th anniversary! You had a key role in strengthening our business, continuously upgrading the Pizza Hut advertising.

Together, we won the YUM Restaurants International "Best in Advertising" Yum Reel Award Worldwide twice in a row in 2006 and in past years. These awards recognize the team's ability to produce strategic advertising that builds on our brand equity. Here's to more years of continued successful collaboration!"

JORGE L. ARANETA
Chairman and CEO,
Araneta Group of Companies

"In a business that requires us to be at the forefront of innovation and breakthrough ideas, it is great to share a long-standing partnership with one of the creative leaders! It is even greater to see the impact of the creative work on our brands time and again – especially on Pepsi, Mountain Dew and just recently, on the launch of Pepsi Max. Thank you for continuing to raise the bar each time!

Congratulations BBDO-GO on your 8th year anniversary. Here's to more success!"

VARUN BERRY
Country Manager
Pepsico International

"Bench congratulates BBDO for its eight years of achievement!"

BEN CHAN
President
Suyen Corp

"BBDO Guerrero Ortega is a valuable and functional partner in the "tagumpay" of Emperador Brandy. Fate brought us together. Excellence in execution makes the partnership better. Indeed, a much deserved congratulations on your 8th anniversary. Here's a toast to your continuing success. Kudos to all of you!"

WINSTON CO
Senior Vice President
Consolidated Distillers
of the Far East Inc.

"Mabuhay BBDO on your 8th anniversary. Your work continues to excite us and we value your contribution in our drive to move our Mitsubishi Motors brand to a position of leadership in the Philippines.

We look forward to more shared success through creative solutions that build the strongest brand in our industry. Come on. Drive Inspired! Congratulations."

MEL DIZON
Senior Vice President
Marketing Division
Mitsubishi Motors

"Working together with BBDO Guerrero Ortega, the DOT successfully communicated that The Philippines is 'more than the usual' destination. And justified the name "Wow Philippines!" Our campaign significantly boosted visitor arrivals to the country at a time of significant challenges to Asian tourism – and this country in particular. This work was subsequently recognized as the world's 'Best Marketing Campaign' at the Tourism Industry's leading gathering: the ITB in Berlin. Congratulations on your 8th Anniversary. You're more than the usual advertising agency. WOW BBDO and WOW Philippines!"

SENATOR RICHARD GORDON
Senate of the Philippines
Republic of the Philippines

"On the occasion of its 8th Anniversary, the Splash and HBC family toasts the partnership founded on shared values of being pioneering and innovative in our brand communications and never settling for anything less than excellent. Whether for existing brands (Extraderm, Sansan) or the task of launching new brands (Biolink, Theraherb), BBDO has always lived up to its mantra of delivering works that truly work! Here's to more years of creating advertising that pleasantly surprises, effectively sells the brand, and by the way, wins awards. Cheers!"

Dr & Dra HORTALEZA
Splash & HBC

"BBDO Guerrero Ortega has played an important part in the Visa 'All it takes' campaign. Since we launched the campaign in 2001 consumer preference for Visa has risen across Asia Pacific on a number of key measures, including 'Best Overall Card'. Together with your colleagues in the rest of BBDO Asia Pacific and our country marketing teams, we have demonstrated that big ideas pay enormous dividends for brands in this part of the world. Happy eighth anniversary from all of us at Visa."

RAJIV KAPOOR
Executive Vice President
and General Manager
for Marketing, Visa Asia-Pacific

"Way to go, BBDO! It has been a very fruitful, exciting, awe-inspiring 8 years of partnership between BBDO Guerrero Ortega and Pepsi! Thank you for providing us the best creative team and the spunkiest, most reliable account team! We have produced world-class campaigns for Pepsi, Pepsi Max, and Dew which the entire Pepsi community attests to be best-in-class. Happiest of all, because of our strong partnership, not only have we upped the ante on creative work, but we are also seeing share gains and strong volume performance for our CSD business.

Well deserved hugs, back-slaps, and congratulations!"

MARICELLE NARCISO
Vice President for Marketing
Pepsico International

"Congratulations for 8 years **OF CREATIVITY THAT WORKS! CHEERS!**"

RICKY RIVERA
Sales and Marketing Director
Janssen Pharmaceutica

"Congratulations to BBDO Guerrero Ortega on celebrating 8 years in the advertising industry."

MARIA SIAMWALLA
Director - Marketing and CRM Asia
GE Money Bank

"Before BBDO's ad campaign, Childhope's program was not widely recognized. With this campaign on TV and on the newsprint dailies, individuals, groups and the corporate sector have provided support to assist Childhope to sustain and support full-time street educators and educational scholarships for the street children.

We are grateful to BBDO for being a dedicated partner of Childhope Asia Philippines to save and redirect the lives of about 2,000 street children a year.

Congratulations to BBDO on your 8th Anniversary and for all the awards received for the Childhope ads!"

TERESITA L. SILVA
President/Executive Director
Childhope Asia Philippines

"Congratulations to BBDO on their 8th Anniversary! As one of your first clients, we at Bayer are happy to share in this momentous occasion. We look forward to the further strengthening of our partnership with BBDO and Bayer in the years to come!"

ALVIN SO
Commercial Director
Bayer Consumer Care

"BBDO Guerrero Ortega has been the creative partner for FedEx in Asia-Pacific since 1999. During that time, they have energized our WeLiveToDeliver tagline, creating a brand promise which is believed in and embraced equally by our employees and, most importantly, our customers.

Thanks to their strategic, dramatic and downright funny creative work, our brand is growing in stature and credibility in all the markets where we do business."

MALCOLM SULLIVAN
Vice President,
Marketing and Corporate
Communications
FedEx Asia Pacific

A view from the region

"In eight years the agency has become world renowned for its creativity and level of client service. The agency constantly provides a higher benchmark for other BBDO offices to attain.

I have absolutely no doubt that the next eight years will see BBDO GO reach new heights in all aspects of its business and remain a focal point for BBDO in the increasingly vital Asia Pacific region."

MICHAEL BIRKIN
President & CEO
Omnicom Asia Pacific

"BBDO Guerrero Ortega is one of the jewels in BBDO's crown. Not just in Asia but worldwide. The agency has a reputation for attracting and retaining the best local talent. It has a relentless focus on the quality of the creative product and an ability to develop creative solutions that cross borders and cross media. It's had a remarkably consistent track record over the last 8 years as one of the premier agencies in the region.

As the agency moves offices and celebrates its 8th birthday, both events are important milestones in the agency's next phase of development."

CHRIS THOMAS
Chairman & CEO
BBDO Asia

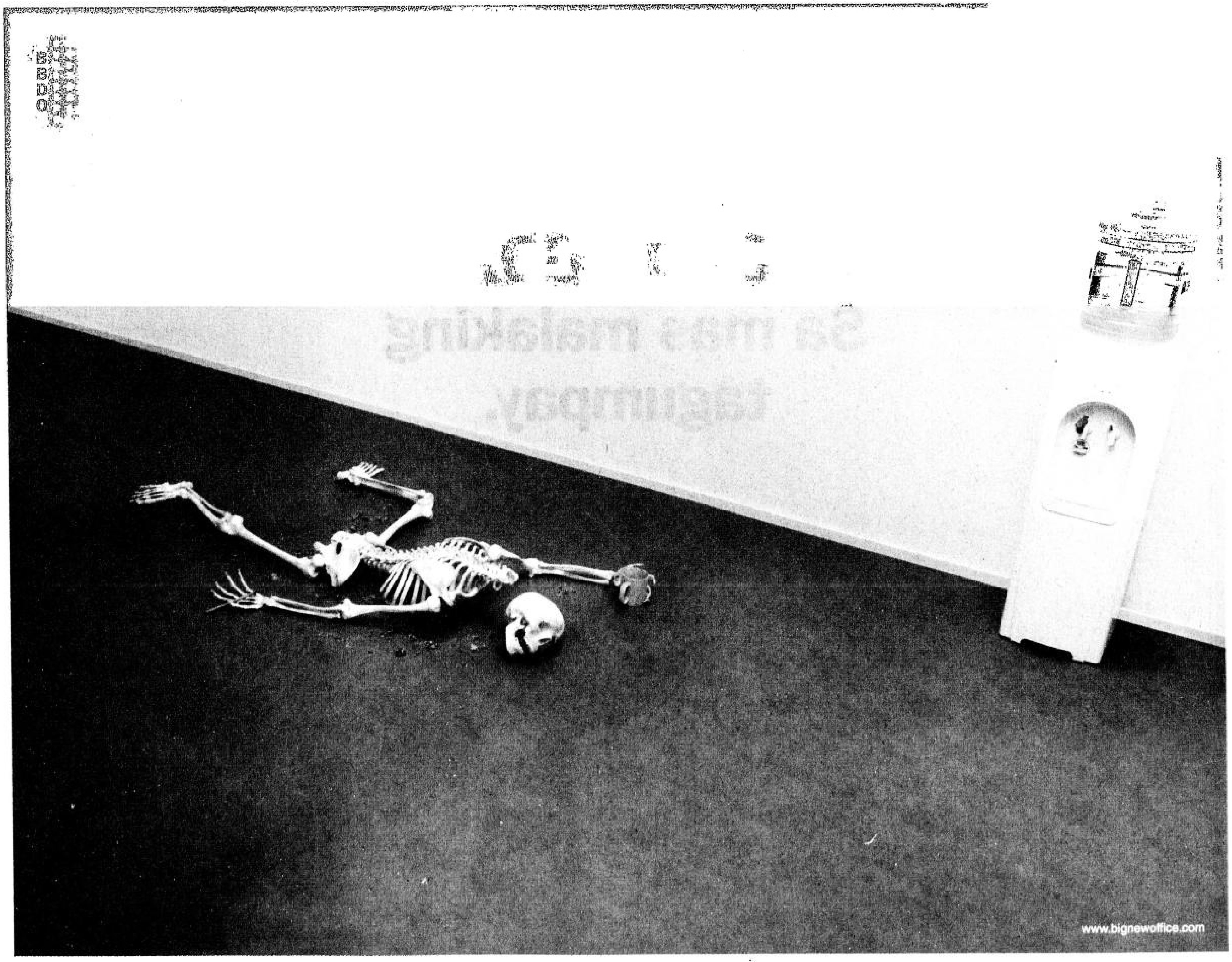
A message from David Guerrero

"All great ideas start with great clients. Not in a copywriter's head. Nor a planner's powerpoint. And in the past eight years we've been fortunate enough to have been inspired by some of the best clients in Asia. We've faced hugely challenging market conditions together and dealt with a rapidly changing media environment.

At the end of it all, the defining belief of the agency has remained that competition needs to be faced head on, not avoided. I'd like to thank all the hugely talented staff in the agency who have risen to meet these challenges with confidence.

Together we can look forward to attaining our dream of being one of the region's most sought after communication companies."

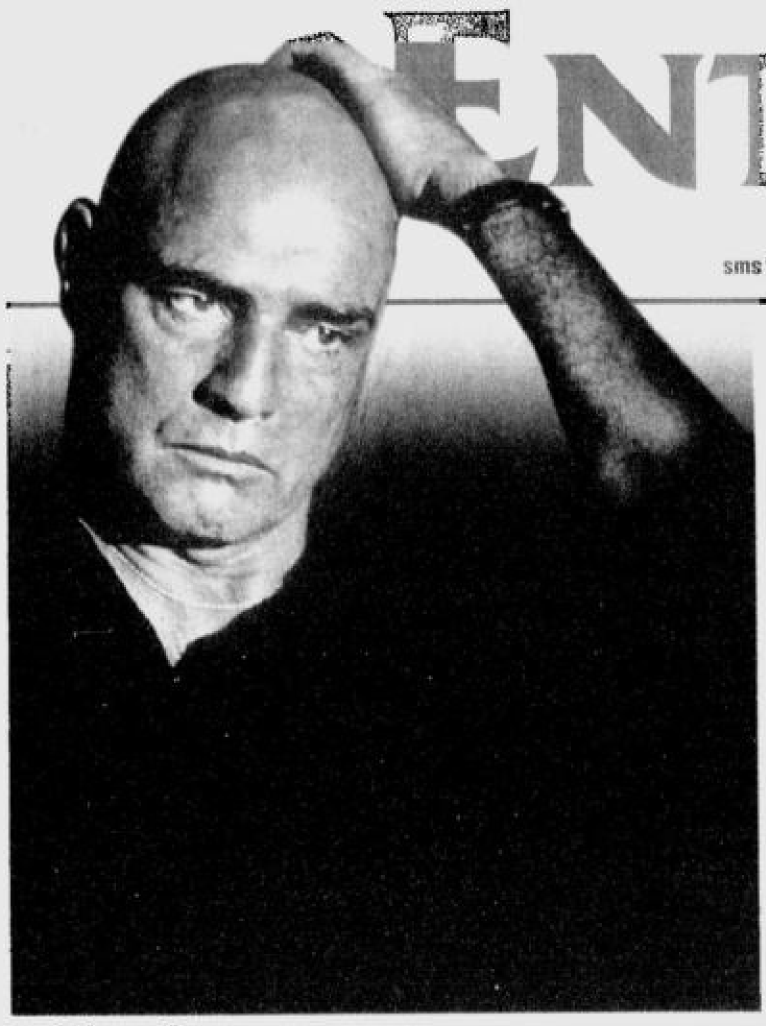
DAVID GUERRERO
Chairman
Chief Creative Officer
BBDO Guerrero Ortega



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph



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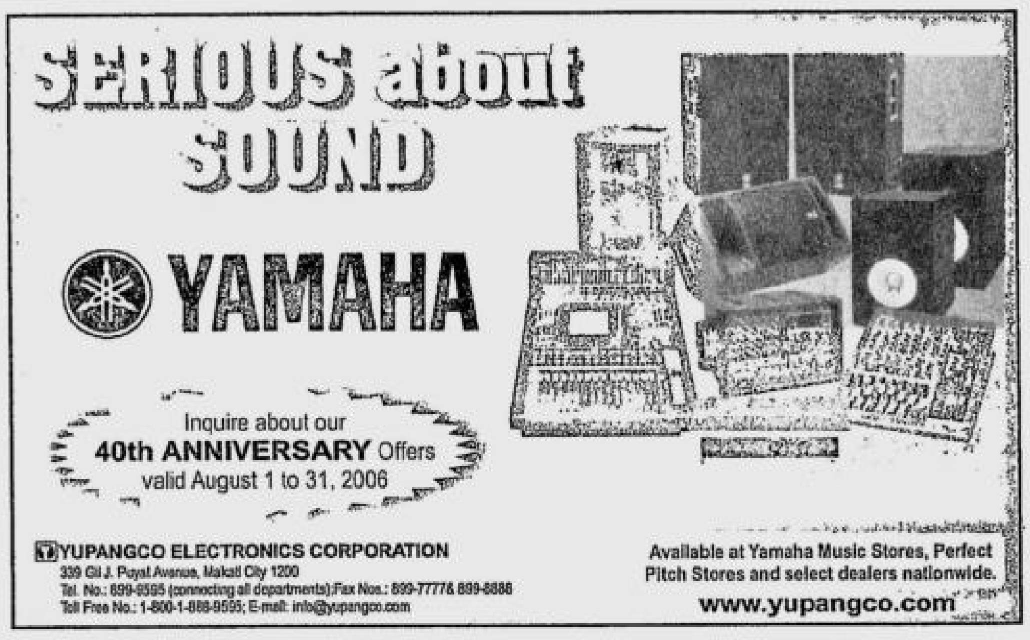
SERIOUS about SOUND

YAMAHA

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SOON TO OPEN: SM LIPA / MARKET MARKET / MALABON CITY SQUARE

LIVE AT SM MALL OF ASIA

Aug 18, 2006 Friday 5:30PM
Music Hall
SM MALL OF ASIA
presents
"SINING KAMBAYOKA ENSEMBLE"
Catch and experience this very rare performance representing the rich and colorful culture of our countrymen in Mindanao.

Aug 19, 2006 Saturday 6:00PM
Music Hall
NU ROCK POCKET CONCERT
Listen to two of the country's hottest bands, Imago & Itchyworms, perform acoustic renditions of their hits.
NU 107 HOMEOFNUROCK

Aug 20, 2006 Sunday 6:00PM
Music Hall
"BURN, BABY, BURN"
with CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA & CALLALILY
BURN Magazine brings Christian Bautista to serenade at the Music Hall followed by a rock performance from Callalily.
BURN, Baby, BURN! The SM Mall Tour

Aug 25, 2006 Friday 7:00PM
Music Hall
THE MUSIC HALL
presents
"THE PHILIPPINE MADRIGAL SINGERS"
Be inspired as this internationally acclaimed choir belts out cuts from their new album "Acclamation".

Aug 26-27, 2006 Sat-Sun 10:00AM
Music Hall
PEDIGREE ALL-BREED DOG SHOW
Be a part of the biggest dog show in Mall of Asia with over 400 dogs of various breeds competing.
Pedigree

Aug 28, 2006 Monday 5:00PM
Music Hall
ADIDAS T-MAC LAUNCH
Witness the unveiling of the first product of the Adidas T-Mac series with the very special appearance of T-Mac himself, NBA Superstar Tracy McGrady.
T-MAC RETURNS 2006

Aug 30, 2006 Wednesday 5:30PM
Music Hall
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presents
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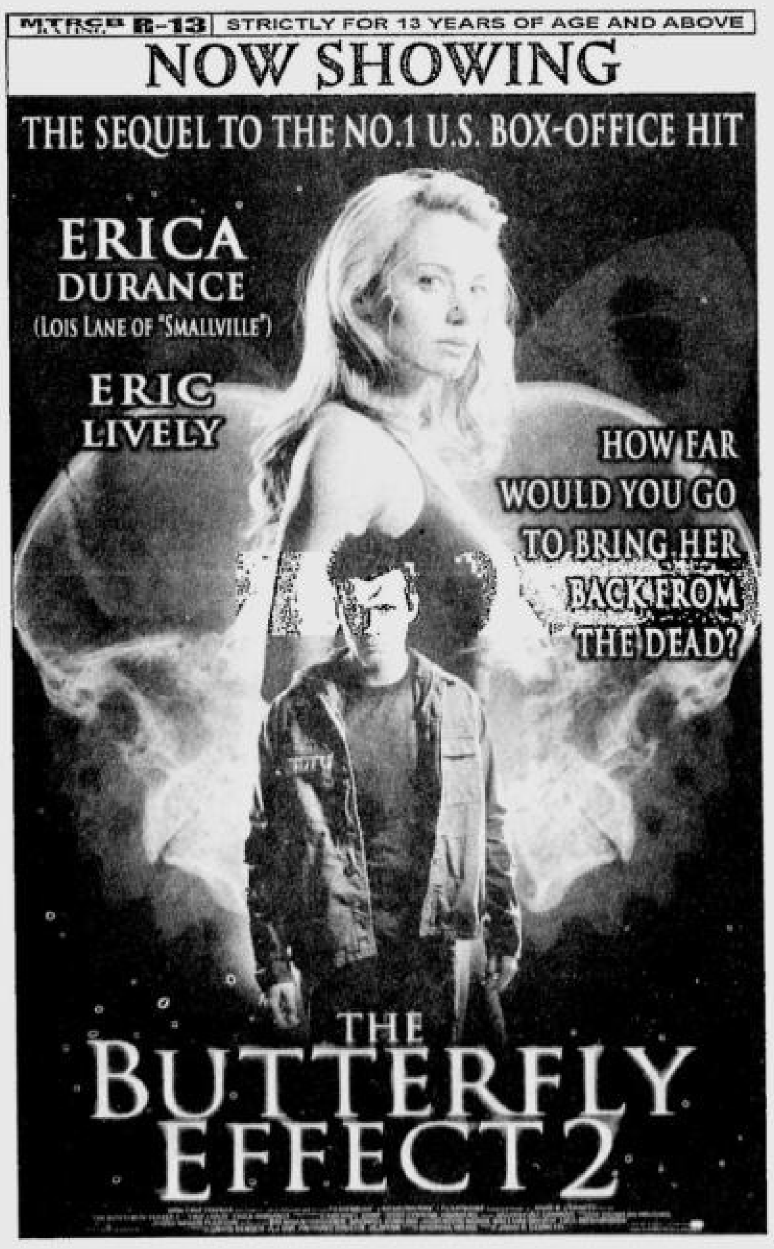
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6. The Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) graded it A, the 1st for 2006.
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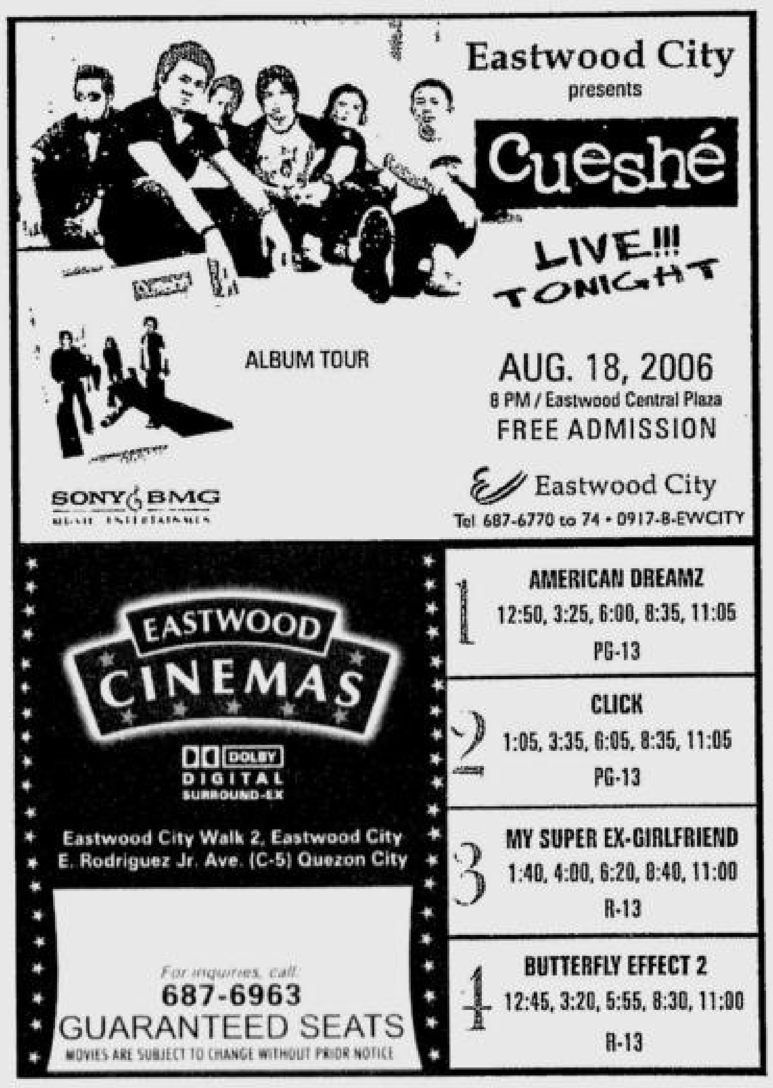
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1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-13

4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:45, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00
R-13

'The Ant Bully' boosts value of all forms of life

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY ANIMATED movies about insects, so the prospect of viewing yet another one wasn't particularly heartening. Still, we ventured to watch "The Ant Bully"—and, what do you know?—we're glad we did.

After a rather slow and over-obvious start, the film picks up steam and zest when it gets to its main plot point, with its young nemesis, Lucas, getting shrunk down to the size of an ant, so that he can learn to understand the little creatures whose colony he's sadistically wrecked with his water gun.

Based on a book by **John Nickle**, the movie aims to give young viewers timely food for thought regarding the value of all forms of life on the planet. We trust that the lesson won't be lost on adult viewers.

The root of the problem is the fact that humans are brought up to think that they're the rulers of the world, and all other creatures are there for their use, sustenance or enjoyment.

Seen in this self-centered context, pets are OK, beef and pork are fine—but pesky pests like insects are no-no's.

So, the movie's young protagonist, Lucas, becomes a big, little bully who makes life miserable for the little creatures that live in his family's yard.

To make things worse, he's unhappy with his life, so he vents his hurt, loneliness and aggression on his ant victims—with especially fiendish relish.

So, when he's shrunk down to ant size so he can see the situation from the point of view of his victims, viewers applaud the development, and expectantly wait for Lucas to learn valuable lessons about life, and what makes ants superior creatures despite their minuscule size.

The risk here is that the production will end up preaching to its audience, and some of this does happen, especially when the movie introduces ant equivalents of a god and its evil arch-enemy. Too much!

Happily, this "sermonizing" bent is more the exception than the rule, and "The Ant Bully" gets its thematic points across without unduly compromising its obligation to tell an involving story.

In this regard, it's greatly aided by its fine visuals and inventive situations. The best sequence, in our opinion, is the one set in the belly of a frog, with Lucas and some insects contemplating their perdition with mordant touches of gallows humor.

It also doesn't hurt that the scene is both a tribute to *and* send-up of the original biblical tale of Jonah in the belly of a whale, *and* Pinocchio's animated follow-up thereafter.

"The Ant Bully" fumbles again when it spends so much screen time on the character of a cruel pest exterminator who threatens to kill all insects at film's end. Trouble is, an exterminator character also figured strongly in another animated feature shown earlier this year, so the arch-villain in "The Ant Bully" has been upstaged through sheer chronology.

Despite these low blows, the film remains viewable, and the thematic points it raises should be appreciated by young and adult viewers alike.

Love, respect and value those living creatures, folks—all of them. They may not be human, but they could, in their own way, be—humane.

'The Guardian'

KEVIN Costner and **Ashton Kutcher** star in the new action-adventure film, "The Guardian." Costner plays a legendary rescue swimmer who is sent to teach an elite training program for the Coast Guard. He helps mold the character of a cocky young man (Kutcher), and they later team up in a real rescue effort in the Bering Sea.

ROUNDUP

'Prada' previews

THE FASHION COMEDY "THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA" WILL HAVE sneak previews on Aug. 21 and 22 in Metro Manila theaters.

Based on the popular Lauren Weisberger novel of the same title, the movie stars Meryl Streep as Miranda Priestly, the influential editor-in-chief of Runway magazine. Anne Hathaway plays Andy Sachs, Priestly's second assistant. The movie opens Aug. 30 in local theaters.

'Surviving Katrina'

SURVIVORS OF THE UNITED STATES' WORST NATURAL DISaster open up about their experiences in "Surviving Katrina," a two-hour special that premieres Aug. 20, 9 p.m. on Discovery Channel.

Emergency phone calls, never-before-seen home video from the (refugee center) Superdome, combined with interviews and documentation of reconstruction efforts will shed new light on the dark day of August 2005 when the hurricane changed America.

Profiles of ordinary Americans who forged ahead through death-filled waters, mass confusion and devastation to save others and unite with loved ones provide a new face to the tragedy one year later.

The show encores Aug. 21, 3 a.m. and 2 p.m., Aug. 26, 2 p.m. and Aug. 27, 8 p.m.

'Naked Science'

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Channel takes audiences inside top secret laboratories, where scientists seek the perfect combination of stability and destructive force to create their ultimate goal—the atomic bomb.

On the Aug. 28 episode of "Naked Science" at 10 p.m., terrorists usurp the science of explosions to produce crude but deadly "home made" bombs.

The episode also explores the reality behind the "science-fiction" dream of an all-powerful energy source—antimatter.

'Wedding Date'

KAT ELLIS' (DEBRA MESSING) WORST NIGHTMARE IS about to come true. Not only is her younger, half-sister Amy (Amy Adams) getting married before her; the groom's (Jack Davenport) best man is Kat's ex-fiancée, Jerry (Jeremy Sheffield).

Two years after being dumped, Kat is a single New Yorker who can't bear to attend the festivities at her parent's London home alone. So she does the next best thing: hire an escort to play her boyfriend.

Her rented date, Nick (Dermot Mulroney), fits the bill perfectly. He's handsome, intelligent, well spoken, intuitive, a perfect gentleman—and a bargain at $6,000.

"The Wedding Date" airs tomorrow on Star Movies at 9 p.m. and again on Aug. 20, 22 and 23.

'Battlestar Galactica'

THE EMMY NOMINATED EPIC SCI-FI SERIES "BATTLESTAR Galactica" soars back to Asian television with a second season premiering Sept. 3, 9 p.m. on Cinemax.

In this remake of the '70s cult series, the android Cylons are sophisticated robots with artificial intelligence that have now taken human form and are in a quest to destroy mankind.

The second season picks up where the first left off, with the fleet divided by power struggle as President Laura Roslin (Mary McDonnell) refuses Commander Adama's demand for her resignation.

'Supernova' explodes

TOP-BILLED BY GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER PETER FONDA, Luke Perry and Tia Carrere, the Hallmark Channel original presentation "Supernova" boasts explosive special effects and scenes filmed in 27 amazing locations around the globe, including the St. Louis Archway, Paris, and the Taj Mahal.

Premiering Aug. 27 at 9 p.m., the miniseries chronicles the day the world was threatened to be consumed by fire. The sun has reached its limit and is set to explode in a supernova that will bring about the end of the world in seven short, terrifying days.

Surfing special

ON AUG. 20 AT 9 P.M., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL features on "Infinite Possibilities" the story of three surfers who dare to ride the great Pororoca waves of the Amazon River in "Pororoca: Quest for the Endless Wave."

A group of the world's top surfers risk more than their reputations by challenging this mysterious and unpredictable wave. Surfers, already dealing with the physical challenge of an extraordinary long ride, must also elude swirling logs, as well as alligators, piranhas and anacondas.

Uma's story

"THODI SI ZAMEEN THODA SA AASMAN" IS THE STORY OF Uma, A 27-year-old girl who has finished her graduation and is looking forward to her post-graduation because she has aspirations to rise above the limitations.

Coming from a family of mill workers whose survival depends on the Jajodiya Mills, Uma is the face of an average middle Indian girl whose life constantly oscillates between despair and hope, fear and dreams.

The story of Uma airs tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. on Star Plus.

With JD, INXS is in for another long haul

REVIEW

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

JD FORTUNE MOVED LIKE A COUGAR IN heat, pouncing all over the stage, or body slithering as if to dare the dauntless to romp away with him.

He kept at it for practically the entire length of the show as he led INXS on a raunchy night of rock 'n' roll last Tuesday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Fortune, new lead singer of the band once compared to U2 in popularity and influence, was apparently trying his darn best to please an audience that had most likely not seen INXS perform live.

The band was at the top of world charts in the late 1980s. At 31, Fortune himself was too young then to have even imagined that he would one day step into the shoes of Michael Hutchence, whose defiance and sexual charm onstage had led to his being considered heir apparent to (The Doors') Jim Morrison, and who had died under bewildering circumstances at age 37.

Nonetheless, Fortune let loose such luscious energy that made the women in the crowd drool—no, delirious.

Rhythm and swing

Still intact with its founding members, the band provided the indispensable crunch and spark to a sound that bore marks of the Rolling Stones with a dose of funk. Alternating on lead guitars, Tim Farriss and Kirk Pengilly conveyed ferocity even as they seemed to smile, eyes and true feelings hidden behind dark glasses. The careening loudness of familiar refrains had the audience transfixed for long stretches at a time.

Switching between keyboards and guitar, Andrew Farriss lent the swing to the grooves that were too irresistible to not dance to.

Not to be overlooked, of course, were the compelling muscular rhythms by drummer Jon Farriss and bass player Garry Beers, who were both having a ball egging on the audience to keep the level of fun high.

Finally, the unmistakable intro of "Original Sin" unleashed all inhibitions in the house. Everybody—everybody—danced New Wave style, focusing on Pengilly's ringing guitar—which uncannily reminded us of many other familiar '80s songs, but which still sounded fresh.

By the time "Need You Tonight" and What You Need" came on one after the other, the air was suffused with a not-so-subtle sexual energy—affirming the lasting legacy Hutchence had delivered with these songs, and which Fortune was psyched enough to take on.

All in the spirit of fun ("Welcome to the party!" he had blurted when the gig started), although sometimes the spirits of both Hutch and Morrison seemed to hover above Fortune as he grasped the mic like a phallic symbol.

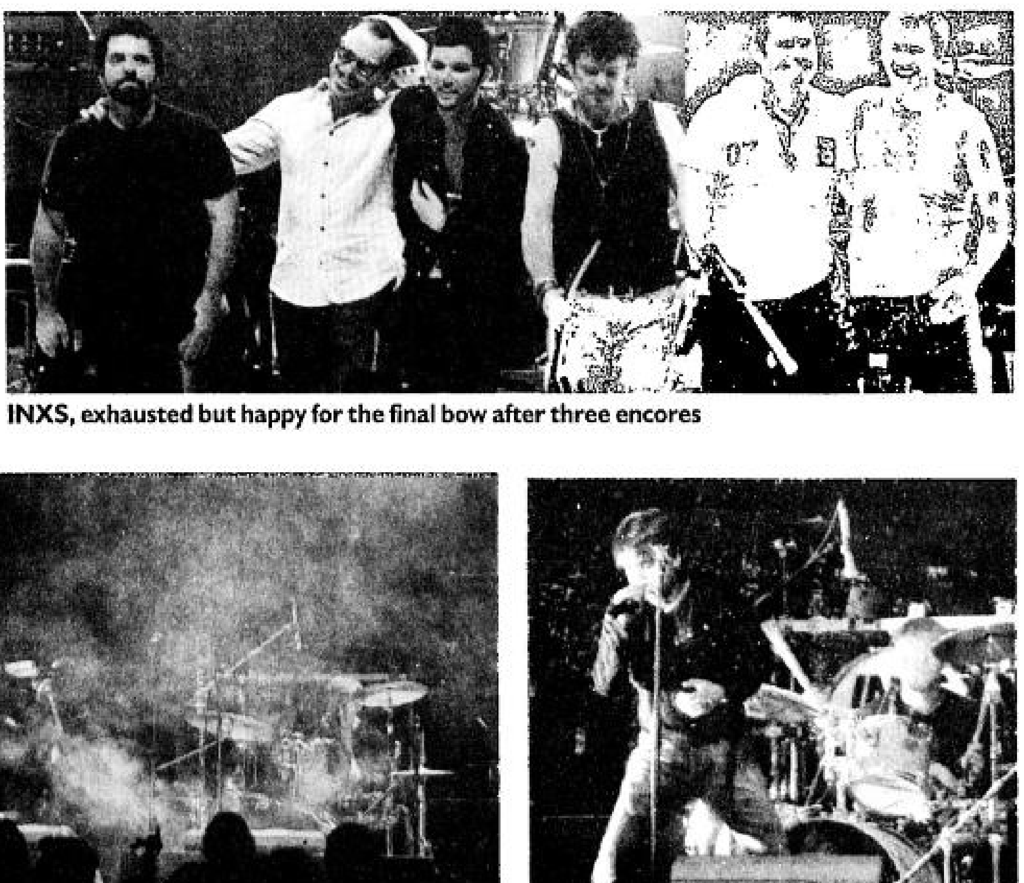
There was no escaping the heat and passion as Fortune filled in the lines of such phrases as "Makes me sweat," "I'm lonely!" and "You're one of my kind…"

There was tension, too, or so we thought, as Fortune was bothered by his ear monitors that kept getting displaced as he raced from one end of the stage to the other and, a few exhilarating times, off it.

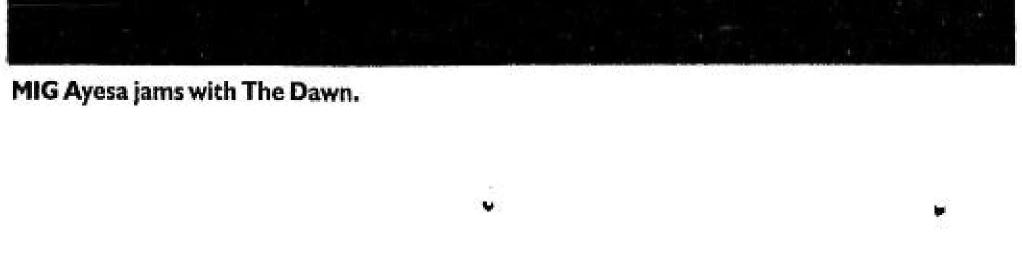
Otherwise, he consistently projected a magnetizing presence that enhanced his lean and lanky build, matched with a voice that may have sounded spotty at times, but which gained full strength notably in his own volatile composition, "Pretty Vegas."

With Fortune, the good news is, INXS might be in for a longer haul than they planned for.

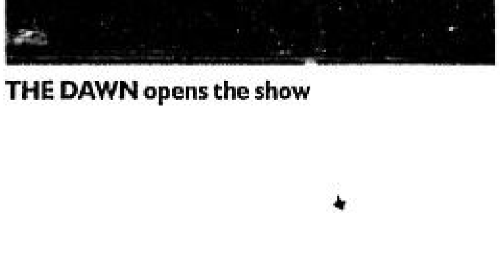
JD Fortune psyched up for the daunting job. PHOTOS BY JIM GURAO PUNZALAN



INXS, exhausted but happy for the final bow after three encores



MIG Ayesa jams with The Dawn.



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CLICK **PG13** 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	**MORTUARY** **R13** 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:05	**MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND** **R13** 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15

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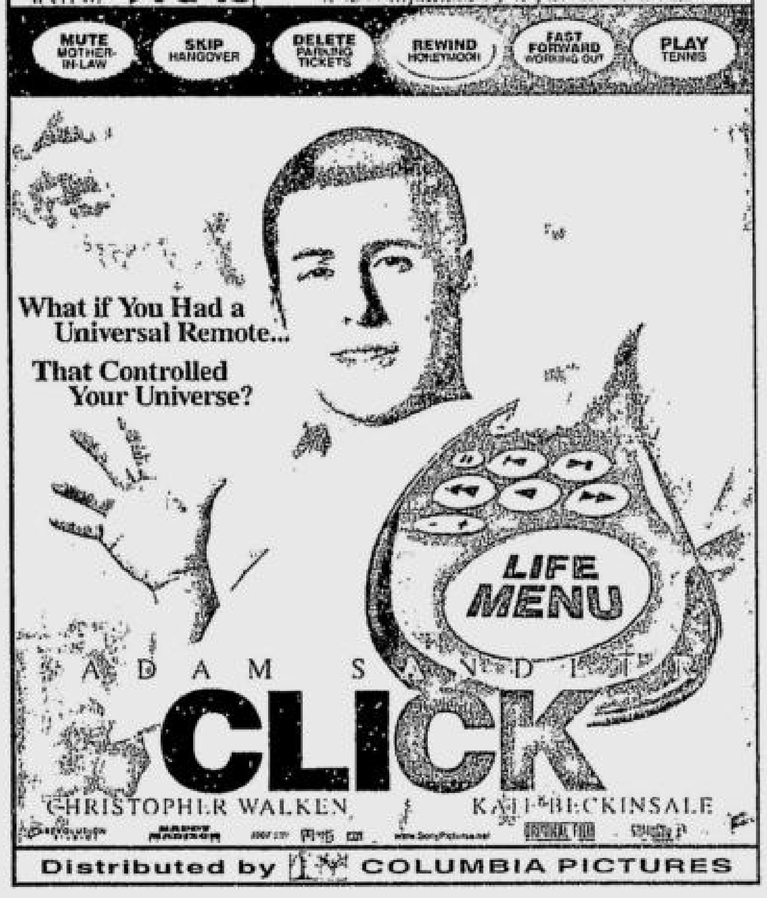

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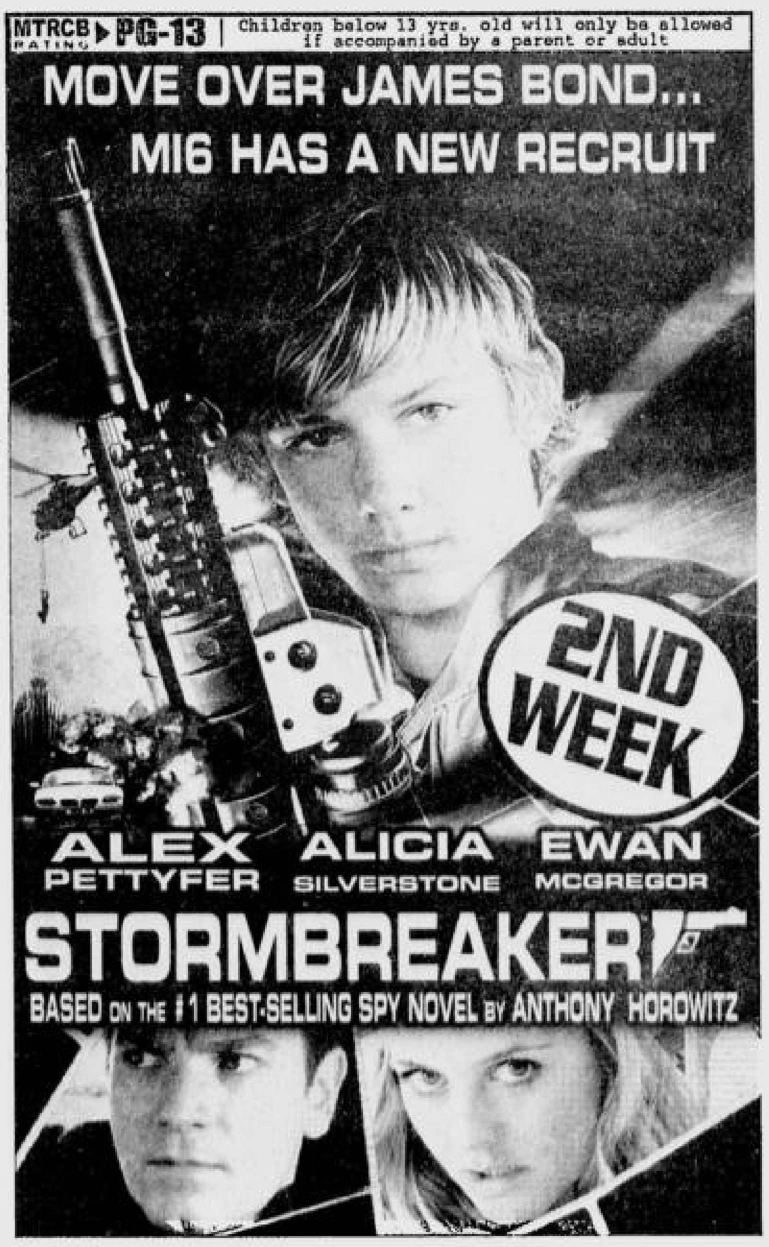

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12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50

4 KUBRADOR
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

5 OH MY GHOST!
12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12:30 2.50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 MORTUARY
1:00 3:15 5:30 7.45 10:00

8 STORMBREAKER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

9 MIAMI VICE
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

10 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 MORTUARY
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 CLICK
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:05 10:00

7 OH MY GHOST!
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

3 STORMBREAKER
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4 SUKOB
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5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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6 MORTUARY
12:50 2:50 4.50 6:50 9:00

7 CLICK
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3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 WOLF CREEK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 OH MY GHOST!
4 SUKOB

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 OH MY GHOST!
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOST!
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 STORMBREAKER

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 CLICK
3 OH MY GHOST
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 SUKOB
6 TAMARA

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST!
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK

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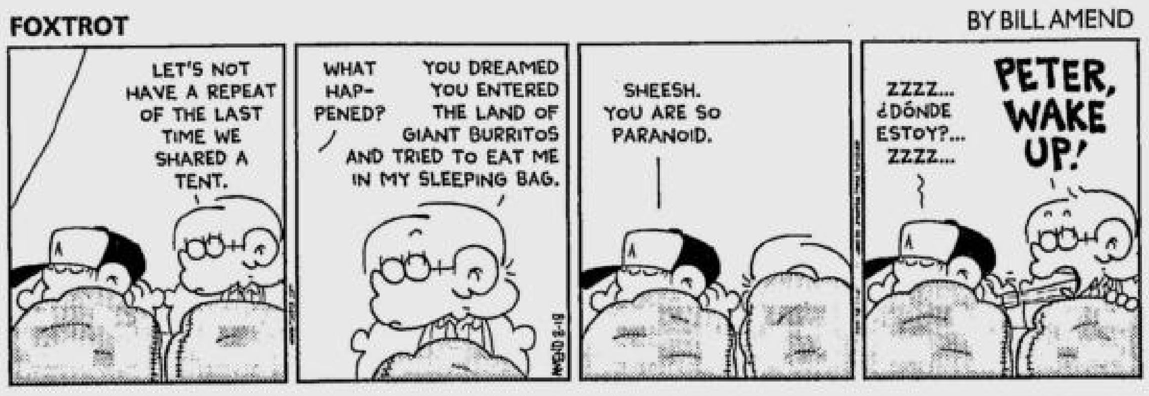
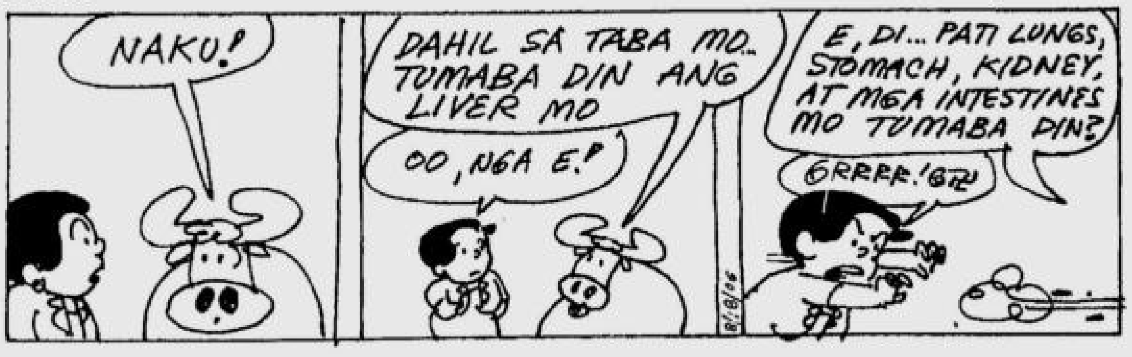
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


LET'S NOT HAVE A REPEAT OF THE LAST TIME WE SHARED A TENT.
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU DREAMED YOU ENTERED THE LAND OF GIANT BURRITOS AND TRIED TO EAT ME IN MY SLEEPING BAG.
SHEESH. YOU ARE SO PARANOID.
ZZZZ... ¿DÓNDE ESTOY?... ZZZZ...
PETER, WAKE UP!

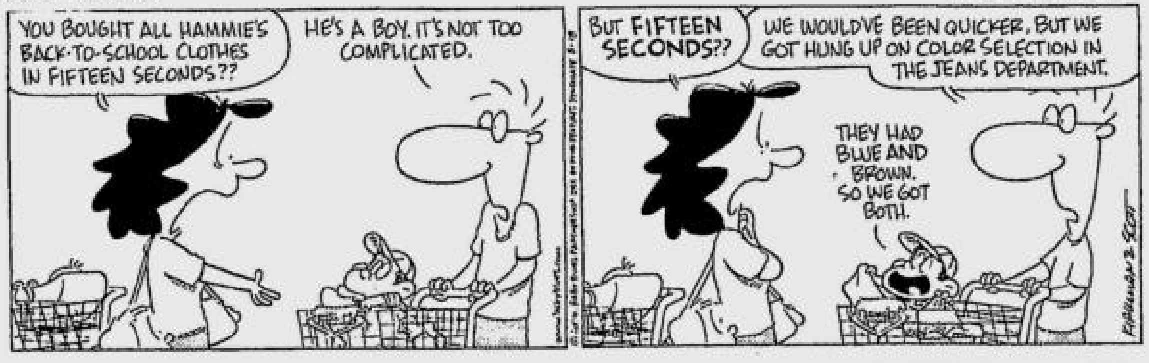
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAKU!
DAHIL SA TABA MO.. TUMABA DIN ANG LIVER MO
OO, NGA E.!
E, DI... PATI LUNGS, STOMACH, KIDNEY, AT MGA INTESTINES MO TUMABA DIN?
GRRRR!

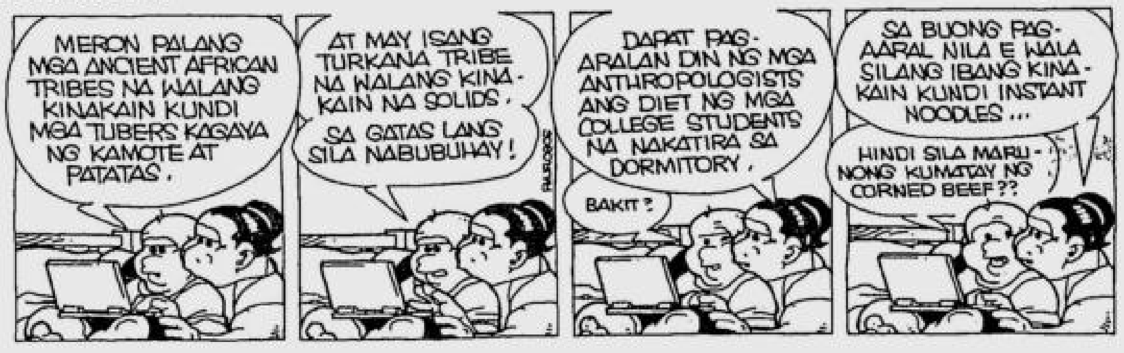
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU BOUGHT ALL HAMMIE'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHES IN FIFTEEN SECONDS??
HE'S A BOY. IT'S NOT TOO COMPLICATED.
BUT FIFTEEN SECONDS??
WE WOULD'VE BEEN QUICKER, BUT WE GOT HUNG UP ON COLOR SELECTION IN THE JEANS DEPARTMENT.
THEY HAD BLUE AND BROWN. SO WE GOT BOTH.

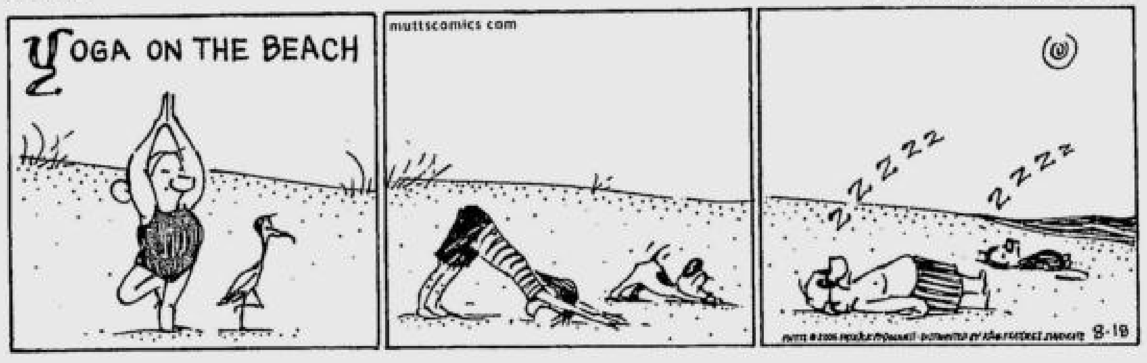
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MERON PALANG MGA ANCIENT AFRICAN TRIBES NA WALANG KINAKAIN KUNDI MGA TUBERS KAGAYA NG KAMOTE AT PATATAS.
AT MAY ISANG TURKANA TRIBE NA WALANG KINAKAIN NA SOLIDS.
SA GATAS LANG SILA NABUBUHAY!
DAPAT PAG-ARALAN DIN NG MGA ANTHROPOLOGISTS ANG DIET NG MGA COLLEGE STUDENTS NA NAKATIRA SA DORMITORY.
BAKIT?
SA BUONG PAG-AARAL NILA E WALA SILANG IBANG KINAKAIN KUNDI INSTANT NOODLES...
HINDI SILA MARUNONG KUMATAY NG CORNED BEEF??

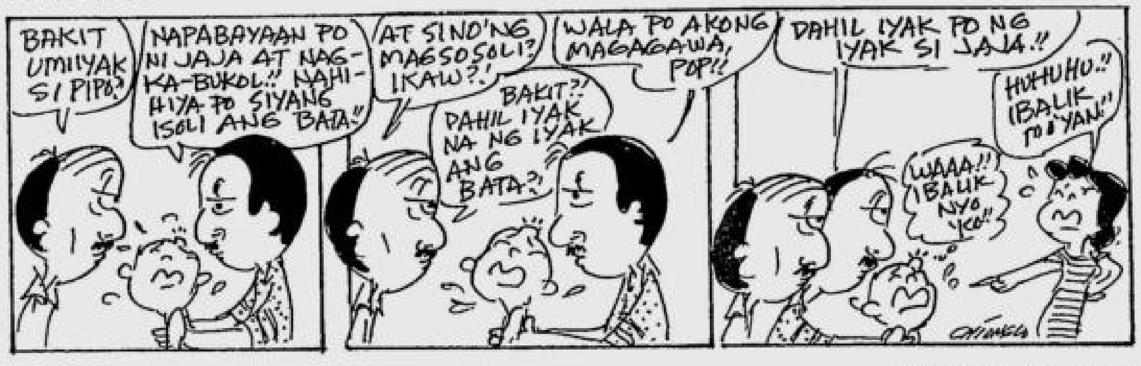
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOGA ON THE BEACH
muttscomics com
ZZZZZ
ZZZZ
8-18

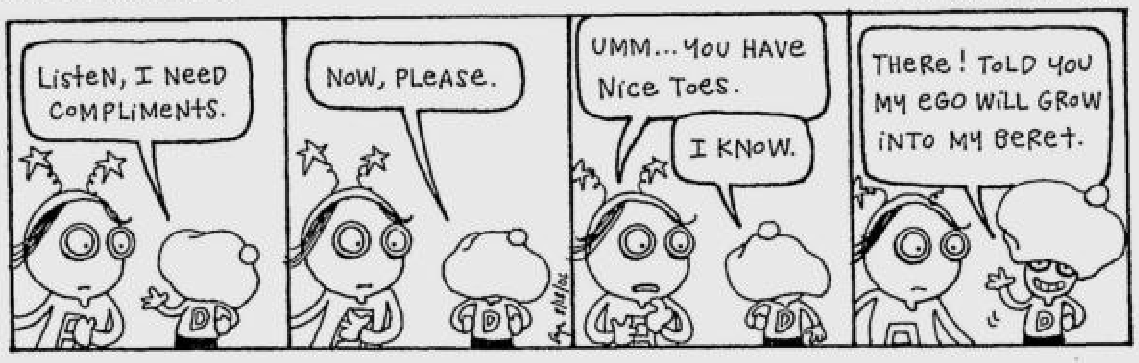
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKIT UMIIYAK SI PIPO?
NAPABAYAAN PO NI JAJA AT NAGKA-BUKOL!! NAHIHIYA PO SIYANG ISOLI ANG BATA!!
AT SINO'NG MAGSOSOLI?! IKAW?!
BAKIT?! DAHIL IYAK NA NG IYAK ANG BATA?!
WALA PO AKONG MAGAGAWA, POP!!
DAHIL IYAK PO NG IYAK SI JAJA!!
HUHUHU!! IBALIK PO 'YAN!!
WAAA!! IBALIK NYO 'KO!!

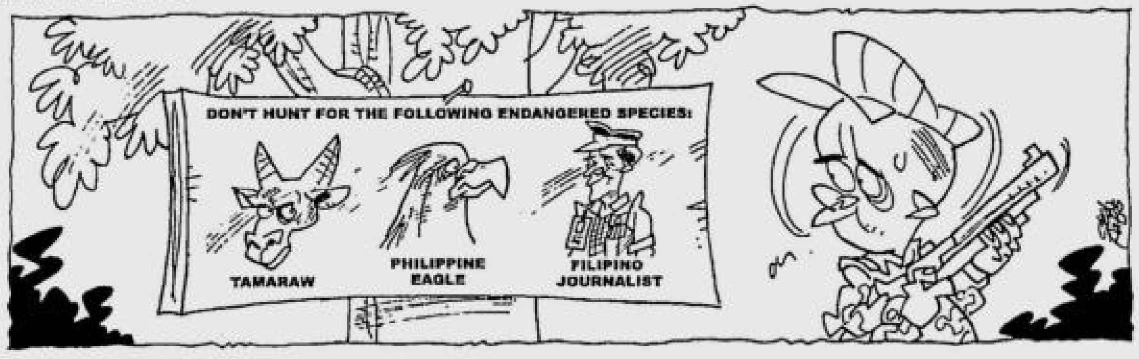
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Listen, I Need Compliments.
Now, Please.
UMM... You Have Nice Toes.
I Know.
There! Told You My Ego Will Grow Into My Beret.

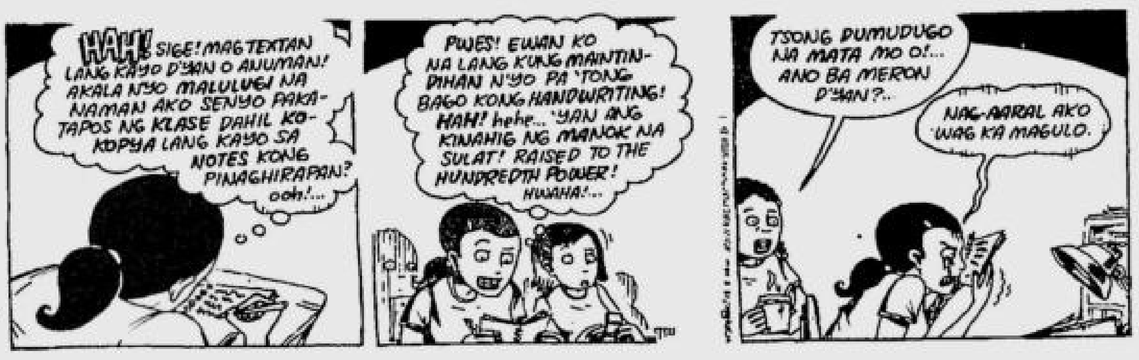
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DON'T HUNT FOR THE FOLLOWING ENDANGERED SPECIES:
TAMARAW
PHILIPPINE EAGLE
FILIPINO JOURNALIST

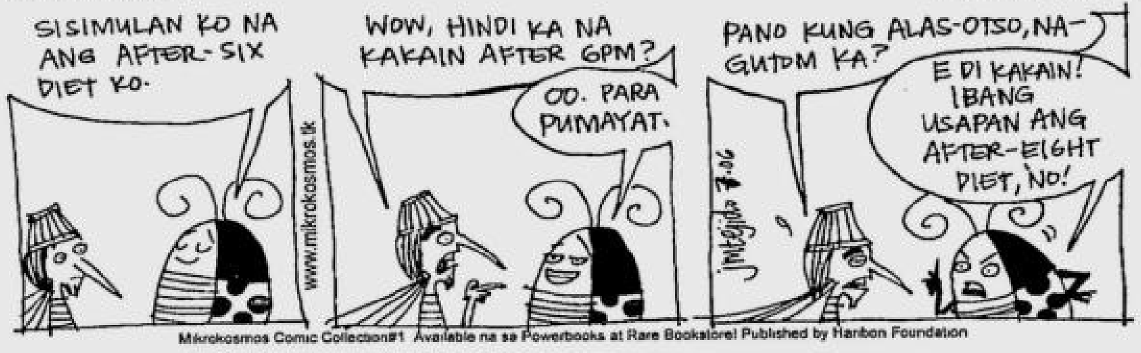
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! SIGE! MAGTEXTAN LANG KAYO D'YAN O ANUMAN! AKALA N'YO MALULUGI NA NAMAN AKO SENYO PAKATAPOS NG KLASE DAHIL KOKOPYA LANG KAYO SA NOTES KONG PINAGHIRAPAN? ooh!...
PWES! EWAN KO NA LANG KUNG MAINTINDIHAN N'YO PA 'TONG BAGO KONG HANDWRITING! HAH! hehe... 'YAN ANG KINAHIG NG MANOK NA SULAT! RAISED TO THE HUNDREDTH POWER! HWAHA!...
TSONG DUMUDUGO NA MATA MO O!... ANO BA MERON D'YAN?..
NAG-AARAL AKO 'WAG KA MAGULO.

MIKROKOSMOS

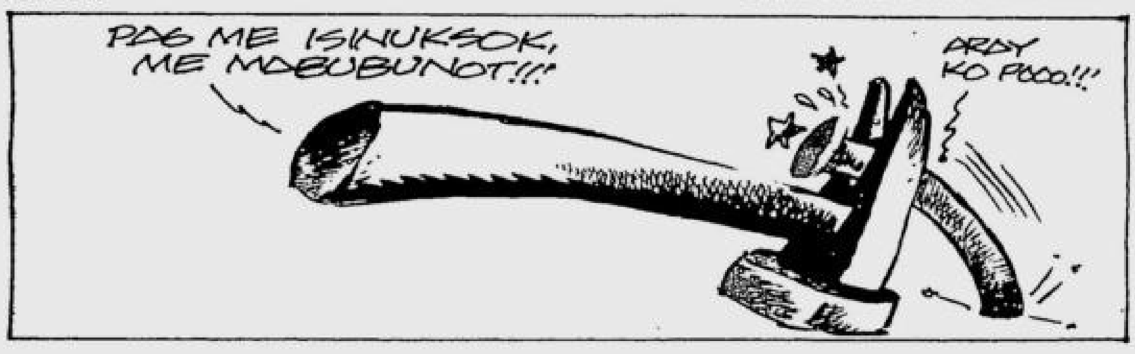
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SISIMULAN KO NA ANG AFTER-SIX DIET KO.
www.mikrokosmos.tk
WOW, HINDI KA NA KAKAIN AFTER 6PM?
OO. PARA PUMAYAT.
PANO KUNG ALAS-OTSO, NAGUTOM KA?
E DI KAKAIN! IBANG USAPAN ANG AFTER-EIGHT DIET, NO!

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Hanbon Foundation

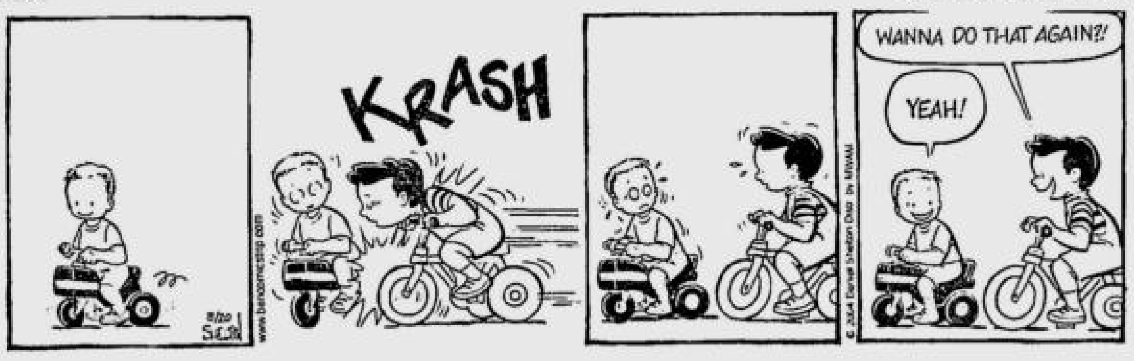
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

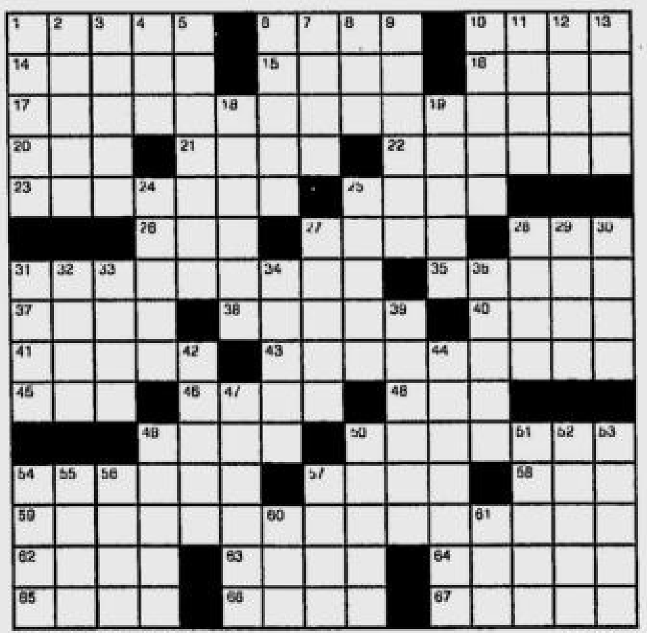

PAG ME ISINUKSOK, ME MABUBUNOT!!!
ARAY KO POOO!!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


KRASH
WANNA DO THAT AGAIN?!
YEAH!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

8/18/06

ACROSS
1 Swagger
6 Pay period
10 Salon treatment
14 Inundated
15 Corridor
16 Burn soother
17 Settle a score
20 DDE opponent
21 Crooner Bennett
22 Coleridge's palace
23 Pops in
25 Columnist Barrett
26 Outback hopper
27 Ugli coat
28 Baseball stat
31 With 43A, settle a score
35 Give way
37 Indistinct
38 Plains dwelling
40 Stringed instrument
41 Not quite right
43 See 31A
45 Chinese menu general
46 Playwright Coward
48 Beat a retreat
49 TV chef Graham
50 Open porch
54 Staff notation
57 Presidential stopper
58 Knack
59 Settle a score
62 Neutral color
63 Stead
64 In reserve
65 Unwelcome stocking stuffer
66 Raison d'__
67 Arctic coat

DOWN
1 Wondrous tales
2 Peep from a tree
3 "Midnight Cowboy" role
4 Fleet letters
5 Thanks anyway
6 Querulous
7 Cushy
8 Will Ferrell film
9 Antique car horn
10 Port city on the Ganges
11 Director Kazan
12 Crude cross
13 Diner's card
18 On top of that
19 Sweet treat
24 Recites the rosary
25 Up and about
27 Beat back
28 Means of checking
29 Common-interest group
30 Gathering dust
31 Come again?
32 Ewes' guys
33 Basso Pinza
34 When pigs fly!
36 Former Mrs. Trump
39 Long-plumed waders
42 Indy winner Tom
44 Techno/hip-hop hybrid
47 All-seeing one
49 Afghani capital
50 Trial setting
51 Low-water mark
52 Inferior merchandise
53 Befuddled
54 Oil cartel acronym
55 Tex-Mex menu item
56 Actress Banks
57 Contender
60 Scout Carson
61 Santa __ winds

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T	S	A	R		S	T	E	M		E	M	I	T	S
R	I	L	E		E	R	G	O		G	O	O	N	S
O	G	L	E		N	E	O	N		G	O	W	N	S
T	H	E	L	E	S	S	S	O	U	N	D	A		
S	T	Y		L	O	S		G	T	O		S	M	A
			D	E	R		T	R	I	G		T	A	P
S	T	A	I	N		A	R	A	L		S	A	C	S
M	A	N	S	A	R	G	U	M	E	N	T	T	H	E
A	M	O	K		A	G	E	S		O	L	E	O	S
R	E	M		A	P	R	S		I	T	O			
T	R	A		M	I	I		A	N	I		C	S	A
		L	O	U	D	E	R	H	E	T	A	L	K	S
L	I	O	N	S		V	I	E	S		S	O	A	P
A	C	U	T	E		E	T	A	S		A	N	T	E
P	E	S	O	S		D	A	D	E		P	E	E	N

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8/18/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're flexible and very responsive to situations. You can switch horses midstream. This makes you an effective leader. You quickly see the lay of the land—the big picture. Your sixth sense will always tell you when to hold and when to fold. This year, you need time by yourself to do an important project or study something.

Birthdate of: Edward Norton, actor; Robert Redford, actor; Rosalynn Carter, activist/former first lady.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's easy to overdo partying and having a good time today. Remember: If you drink—don't drive. It's OK to enjoy yourself, but don't forget that the sun will rise tomorrow!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't make promises to family members that you won't be able to follow through on. Family is forever, and they never forget. (Don't go out on a limb.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today your ruler, Mercury, is encouraged to go overboard. That's why you can't stop talking. Don't make promises to anybody that you can't back up later.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might go overboard spending money today. (The Devil made me do it!) You value money too much to be silly with it. Think twice before you part with your hard-earned cash.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Yours is a very generous sign. Today you're tempted to go really overboard in some way. Don't pick up the tab for others if you can't afford to do so.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a great day to do research. The only downside is that you don't feel much like working. But whatever you do will definitely bring you lots of results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a very enjoyable day talking to friends and groups. You feel upbeat, positive and optimistic. Just don't make promises to anybody that you can't keep.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Cut yourself some slack today when dealing with bosses, parents and VIPs. If you have to agree to a deadline, make sure it's realistic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You think big, you talk big and you dream big. That's just who you are. It's why everyone loves you. But sometimes you can get in trouble by overextending yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't give away the farm today. If you have to divide something, make sure you don't shortchange yourself. After all, you count too. (But you know this.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is certainly a talkative day. There's something important you want to communicate to somebody. That's fine. (But you can't keep your shirt on while you're trying to get something off your chest.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're so enthused to get work done now, you might take on more than you can really handle. Be careful about doing this.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

3					4		6	1
1		8			7			
					2		7	
2	6	5						
				6				
						6	9	7
	2		8					
			9			4		5
4	1		3					8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/18

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	1	6	7	3	2	9	8	4
3	9	2	6	4	8	1	5	7
8	7	4	1	5	9	3	2	6
9	5	1	2	8	4	6	7	3
6	8	3	9	7	1	2	4	5
2	4	7	5	6	3	8	1	9
1	3	5	8	9	7	4	6	2
7	2	9	4	1	6	5	3	8
4	6	8	3	2	5	7	9	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

AN "instant classic": Grace Nono wowed them at two recent showcase programs of the Asia Pacific Performance Exchange at the UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles). PHOTO BY JORGE VISMARA

Pinay's lawsuit vs Brando's estate offers peek at actor's sad last days

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—HERE'S LOS ANGELES Times' critic **Lewis Segal**'s take on **Grace Nono**'s recent performance in two shows staged by the Asia Pacific Performance Exchange at the UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles): "On both programs, just about anything sung by Grace Nono became an instant classic."

Congratulations, Grace. We've always believed—and we told some Manila record industry execs many years ago—that in Grace and her CDs that feature her commanding vocals and Filipino rhythms with a contemporary touch, we have a very good chance of success in the world music market.

With people all around the globe hungry for what is termed "world music," which is broadly defined as "music from cultures other than those of Western Europe and English-speaking North America, especially popular music from Latin America, Africa, and Asia," Grace's CDs, if given more push, will find a niche in this field. The world music market has become a multimillion dollar industry.

Borlaza's case

We recently obtained a copy of the lawsuit that Pinay majordomo **Angela Borlaza**, who is also known as Evelyn Magaling, filed against the executors of **Marlon Brando**'s will. It offers a glimpse of the waning years of one of 20th century's greatest actors and of a Pinay's journey into the very heart of Hollywood.

The $2 million lawsuit was launched by Borlaza last June against a stellar Hollywood producer and executive, **Mike Medavoy** (He was involved in various capacities in such films as "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Rocky," "Annie Hall," "Platoon," "Sleepless in Seattle" and "The Terminator") and his brother-in-law, Larry J. Dressler, who are co-executors of Brando's estate.

Borlaza, who worked for Brando for 10 years as a cook then as a majordomo and a personal assistant until the actor's death in July 2004, is bringing Medavoy and Dressler to court for allegedly taking away a house that she claims the actor bought for her. The Pinay's major contention is that 13 days before Brando (80 at the time) died of pulmonary fibrosis, the two brothers-in-law changed the actor's will. The codicil made them the new co-executors of the estate of the great actor, who came to the Philippines in the 1970s to shoot scenes as Colonel Kurtz in **Francis Ford Coppola**'s masterpiece, "Apocalypse Now."

In her lawsuit, Borlaza charges that Brando was too ill to have signed the codicil when Dressler and his attorney, Charles Larson, came to the actor's Beverly Hills home on June 18, 2004. She claims that she was asked to leave Brando's bedroom and that his handyman, identified only as Sam, was recruited by Dressler and Larson as a witness.

Excerpts

The Pinay aide also maintains that **Neil Dexter**, who allegedly witnessed and notarized Brando's trust amendment, was not in the house that day.

The lawsuit, filed in LA, made headlines around the world and continues to spark articles, including the recent "Mutiny on his bounty" by **Russell Miller**, for The Sunday Times magazine of UK's The Times.

We are printing some excerpts from Miller's piece:

"The great actor is dying. An oxygen tank hisses softly. Plastic tubes lead from the tank up into his nose, to help him breathe. On the bedside table is the paraphernalia of sickness: the pills and the potions, syringes, lubricants and swabs. His carer is a Filipino woman. She was employed as a cook some years ago, but now she rules the roost. Her sister and her two sons have moved in; all the old staff have been fired. She wanted her husband on the payroll too, even when she was sharing Brando's bed. When his friends call, she says he is sleeping, or in the bathroom, or cannot be disturbed.

"The Filipino describes herself as his 'personal assistant' and the 'majordomo' of his residence. She will later tell lawyers that she had a 'loving and close' relationship with her employer. So she is not pleased when a Hollywood bigwig lawyer and an accountant arrive with some documents for Brando to sign. He is to change the executors of his will. She is even less pleased when she is invited to leave the room and when a handyman in the garden is invited to witness the signing. She believes mischief is afoot.

"Thirteen days later, on July 1, 2004, the great actor dies."

Who's who

The piece continues: "At the time of Christian's trial, Brando was sharing his bed with the maid at Mulholland Drive. A man with a voracious sexual appetite, his list of alleged former lovers—male and female—reads like a Hollywood Who's Who: **Ava Gardner, Shelley Winters, Noël Coward, Tyrone Power, Hedy Lamarr, Burt Lancaster, Marilyn Monroe, John Gielgud, Marlene Dietrich, Leonard Bernstein, Tallulah Bankhead, James Dean, Ingrid Bergman, Montgomery Clift, Anna Magnani, Rock Hudson, Rita Hayworth... David Niven** once came across Brando and **Laurence Olivier** naked in a swimming pool and kissing passionately. Niven, who knew that Brando had also seduced Olivier's wife Vivien Leigh, chose to make a gentlemanly exit. 'I turned my back on them and went back inside to join Vivien. I'm sure she knew what was going on, but she made no mention of it. Nor did I. One must be sophisticated about such matters in life.'

"...After the departure of the maid, Christina Maria Ruiz, and the three children fathered by Brando when he was between 66 and 70, he took on a new Filipino cook, Angela Borlaza, who, like her predecessor, would soon be sharing his bed, even though by then he weighed 350 pounds. To the disquiet of Brando's few remaining friends and business advisers, it was not very long before Borlaza was exercising an extraordinary influence over the ailing actor."

No English

Miller goes on: "With Brando more or less confined to his bedroom, mostly sleeping during the day, his former business manager claims Borlaza moved her two children and her sister into the house, along with their dog and a cat, and invited her Filipino friends to visit frequently. All the televisions (sic), except the one in Brando's bedroom, were permanently connected to Filipino stations, and virtually nobody in the house spoke English. Borlaza's children turned Brando's office into their bedroom, and her son Dean, 16, was put on the payroll and started driving the actor's Lexus, which he promptly crashed, causing $3,000 worth of damage. Borlaza's sister, Vie, who was said to be a registered nurse, was also put on the staff. Brando was persuaded to buy the family a ranch-style house at Winnetka in the San Fernando Valley, 40 minutes' drive away, perhaps in the hope that some of them would move out, but none showed the slightest inclination to leave.

"All these events were observed with mounting alarm by his business manager and friend of 40 years, **JoAn Corrales**. On one visit to Mulholland Drive she said she noticed the housekeeper was wearing a pair of large diamond earrings; a week later it was a strand of pearls that 'went from her neck to her waist.' Corrales discovered that Borlaza's sister had been paid a $1,000 bonus as a 'new employee,' even though she had been working for Brando for a year."

What boggled our mind was to imagine the Mulholland Drive home of the Marlon Brando blaring with The Filipino Channel! *Kapamilya pala noon si Lolo* Marlon! We note Miller's assertion that with Borlaza's family supposedly planting themselves in Brando's abode, "virtually nobody in the house spoke English." Come on!

Lawsuit details

Back to Borlaza's lawsuit, here are some interesting details:

- Borlaza claims that Brando gave the disputed house to her for her "many years of dedicated service." She and Brando supposedly had an oral contract but she agreed that the title to the property would temporarily be held in the name of the actor's California corporation, Penny Poke Farms, because "1) they believed that the decedent (Brando) would potentially receive some type of tax advantages under this arrangement, 2) Plaintiff's (Borlaza) INS status was in question, 3) there was a lawsuit litigated between **Christina Ruiz** and Marlon Brando, and 4) there were concerns by the decedent's business manager, Corrales, that if the property was placed in the plaintiff's name, the plaintiff's husband could make a community property claim to it."
- The Pinay aide also revealed that Brando taught her how to spot his true signatures from forgeries. The "Godfather" would put certain dots between various letters of his name when signing. Borlaza charges that Brando's signature on the codicil did not have these dots and is therefore a forgery.

MARLON Brando

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

Educated Pinoys watch local films

By Marinel R. Cruz

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

EDUCATED FILIPINOS MAKE UP 63.4 percent of those who watch locally produced films in movie houses, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey commissioned by the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

"Pinoy movies were originally perceived to be just for the *bakya* crowd, but the survey showed that most cinema-goers are educated," FDCP chair Jacky Atienza said on Tuesday in an exclusive interview in Makati City.

Major areas

The survey revealed that 49.4 percent are high school graduates and college students, while 14 percent are college graduates and post-graduate students.

The results were based on SWS interviews with 1,200 household heads from June 22-28. The survey was conducted nationwide in the four "major study areas"—the National Capital Region, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Respondents are aged 18 years old and above.

Atienza pointed out that this change in the market called for change in the quality of the product. "If you have an educated market, then you need to have more 'educated' films. I think we see that happening now. We see improvement in the quality of movies."

Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) chair Christine Dayrit pointed out, "For a film to be graded by the board (for tax rebate purposes), this means it's of good quality." Thirteen films were rated out of 18 films that requested grading by the CEB.

Atienza said this improvement would eventually lead to change even in the way producers promote their films. "So if, in the past, the tabloids were utilized to promote local movies, now, producers will look to broadsheets—in the assumption that the educated class makes up broadsheet readership."

Because of improvement in quality, Atienza added, Filipino films are now easier to sell abroad. In fact, the FDCP, through the International Film Festival Committee (Iffcom), is set to send a delegation of movie producers and filmmakers to participate in the 1st Asian Film Market in Korea in October.

According to Dayrit, who is also FDCP vice chair, the council will shoulder the $1,700 needed for the use of a 40-sq.m. booth at the film market. The council will also produce a brochure and a video that would list all the films to be sold during the event.

"Another interesting thing is the relationship between those who go to movie houses and those who watch films on discs," Atienza noted, referring to the SWS poll.

The survey showed that only 6.5 percent of the respondents favored watching in theaters, compared to the 37.7 percent who said they preferred watching discs. "It's a 5:1 ratio. This means five people watch discs as against one person going to the movie house," said Atienza.

He explained that this was brought about by high ticket prices. "Only people who can afford to buy tickets will go to movie houses. Generally, these are people who finished schooling. Educated customers tend to have more purchasing power."

According to the survey, 29 percent of the respondents favored watching video compact discs (VCDs) while 5.7 percent favored digital video discs (DVDS). Filipinos who prefer discs also said they watched films on pirated copies (19 percent for VCDs, 2.6 percent for DVDs) more than original discs (7 percent for VCDs, 2.8 percent for DVDs).

Price dictates

"Here, you can also see that it is still the price that dictates the movements or dynamics in the industry," he said. "Buying discs is cheaper than going to theaters. VCDs are cheaper than DVDs, in the same way that pirated copies are cheaper than the legal ones."

Atienza said the survey would serve as a business aid to producers. "*Dati kasi puro* feel *lang*. This will give them some quantitative data on which to base their decisions."

He said producers would be invited to a conference to tackle the results of the survey, copies of which will also be distributed soon.

HALE

Rockestra returns tonight

SHOW TIME

"ROCKESTRA" IS BACK WITH A vengeance tonight at Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater). Show begins at 8 p.m.

The show brings together six of the local rock scene's most exciting bands—The Dawn, Hale, 6cyclemind, Itchyworms, Urbandub and Up Dharma Down— with the Manila Symphony Orchestra, the oldest symphony orchestra in the Philippines.

Despite its longevity, the MSO has the youngest group of musicians in the country today. Prof. Toti Molina hosts tonight's concert, which will benefit the Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists, which helps talented kids realize their potentials. Call UBE Media, 793-2121.

Winston Wings

Winston Wings Tour 2006 presents Bamboo tomorrow at the OIC in Cagayan de Oro City. Those below 18 years of age will not be allowed entry. IDs may be required as proof of age.

Aug. 18

Rockestra 11 featuring the **Manila Symphony Orchestra** with **The Dawn, Hale, 6Cyclemind, Itchyworms, Urbandub** and **Up Dharma Down** at the **Folk Arts Theater**, 8 p.m.

Tribe of Levi at **Metro Phi** Restobar, Metrowalk, Ortigas

Hush Band with **Highlights** at Mugen Bar

RJ and Friends with **Moonstrucks** at **RJTV Bar**, Paseo de Roxas Bel-Air III

Aug. 19

Human Touch Dancers, Magic Touch Dancers, Morena Dancers and **X Trail Dancers** in a big dance showdown at **Jools Club**, Makati; 7:30 p.m.

Voice Academy of the Philippines' **"Music in Action"** at the Marikina River Banks; 5 p.m.

UrbanNation with **Livewire** at Mugen Bar

Allan K and **Alynna** at Cebu Waterfront Lahug

Pinoy Arts Exposed at **RJTV Bar**, Paseo de Roxas Bel-Air III

Aug. 20

Madrigal Singers at **SM Megamall**; 4 p.m.

Fatbabes at Mugen Bar

Aug. 21

OJ Mariano at **Metro Phi Restobar**, Metrowalk, Ortigas

Skrotum Band with **Ferdie Bernal** and **Le Chazz** at **Mugen Bar**

Aug. 22

Route 70 at **Metro Phi Restobar**, Metrowalk, Ortigas

BAMBOO

KC Concepcion: My mom will walk me down the aisle

WE QUOTE ... FROM KC'S Web site (Aug. 2):

"I'm seeing my father again, for the first time, after 10 long years. Sure, it's a big deal. But this is the time to say: It was my mother who raised me and put herself through hell to keep our lives running, while he wasn't around. It was my mother who consistently made effort to avoid speaking ill of him—so that, growing up, I would continue to have this great impression of my father.

"Sure, I've had to tweak and manipulate my mind to adjust to a 'new' concept of family through the years. It's worked out just fine, but it wasn't easy. Sure, I love my father ... and my stepfather, I love him a lot, but it is my mother who is worth more than anything. It is she ... who will walk me down the aisle for my wedding march.

"Sure, I'm the daughter of ... Get over it, we are all daughters/sons of someone. Sure, I have my own life to live, my own name to build, and my own burdens to worry about. But someone's gotta begin the process of resolving unfinished business. Life is just too damn short to be so angry all the time."

KC Concepcion

The dance

Step 1) Pops is interviewed on "The Buzz."

Step 2) During a press con to promote his latest album, Martin chides Pops for her sexy mag cover.

Step 3) In an interview with INQUIRER Pops says she does what she does to reinvent herself and keep the jobs coming.

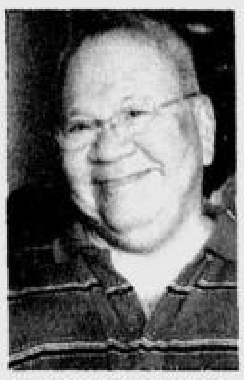
Step 4) Martin blames media for "misinterpreting" him.

Step 5) Point, close, curtsy. Bow. The end.

What a relief!

What was manager Douglas Quijano's reaction when his talent Richard Gomez outed him on national television ("*Ang manager ko, bakla*") by way of proving that he, Goma is not homophobic?

"Ha-ha-ha! At this tender age! I have no problem with that. In fact, that makes things easier for me. Respect yourself and you earn respect, straight or gay."



DOUGLAS Quijano

Broken vow

Kris Aquino earlier said "Sukob" would be her last movie for the meantime because she wanted to focus on getting pregnant next year.

Comes the Ninoy Aquino movie, and Kris says she might reconsider—to play Cory, upon Cory's request.

But you promised!

Shush! Who said that?

He says, she says

Marvin Agustin, on Rufa Mae Quinto and "Oh My Ghost," their movie together: "Pang-international standard. Rufa Mae and I did our best to make the movie worth the viewers' money. Her perfect [comic] timing is infectious. *Ang galing!*"

Rufa Mae replies: "*Ang galing-galing din niya!*"

Time was, when movie stars waited for moviegoers to say these.

RUFA Mae Quinto and Marvin Agustin

He is, she isn't

Busy, busy, busy sweethearts Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo say getting in touch with one another—and other friends and relatives—is one luxury that they look forward to daily. They seem to have made the situation just a little better by signing up to be the new endorsers of Aryty (pronounced "all righty"), an overseas load service.

Ryan says he's ecstatic that the New York-based company has teamed up with Friendster, his communication course of choice. Juday, a mobile phone loyalist, teases him,"You're such a computer geek!"

JUDAY and RYAN

Almost divorced

LOS ANGELES—Kate Hudson and her rocker husband Chris Robinson have separated after six years of marriage, a spokesman for the actress said on Monday.

Publicist Brad Cafarelli confirmed that Hudson, 27, and Robinson, 39, had split. He offered no details. The couple have a two-year-old son, Ryder. *Reuters*

KATE Hudson

It's the poop

NEW YORK—Working with snakes can be more hazardous than you thought—but it's not their bite that's the problem.

"It's the poop," Jules Sylvester, head animal trainer for the new Hollywood movie "Snakes on a Plane" (which stars about 500 snakes) said on Monday at a news conference to publicize the film. "They will poop everywhere." *Reuters*

Sore Jagger throat

MADRID—The Rolling Stones cancelled a concert Monday in the northern city of Valladolid after Mick Jagger was ordered by his doctor to rest his voice.

Jagger developed laryngitis over the weekend, the Stones said in a statement on their Web site. Last week, the singer admitted during an interview with a British radio station that he has hired a voice coach for the first time to help him preserve his voice. *AP*

Trash duty

NEW YORK—Singer Boy George tried out a new look—a street sweeper's orange vest—as he reported for his first day of community service early this week with the city's Department of Sanitation.

It took less than an hour for the former Culture Club frontman to get into a spat with the media. "You think you're better than me?" he yelled. "Go home. Let me do my community service."

The 45-year-old singer was swarmed by reporters and photographers while he stood by the median of a Lower East Side street. He used his broom to sweep dust and leaves into the lens of a video camera. *AP*

Dancing Springer

NEW YORK — Talk-show host Jerry Springer will be among the celebrities competing on the third season of ABC television's "Dancing With the Stars."

Also heading to the dance floor: Vivica A. Fox, Harry Hamlin, Joe Lawrence, Mario Lopez, Sara Evans, Willa Ford, Monique Coleman, former beauty queen Shanna Moakler and three-time Super Bowl champion Emmitt Smith. *AP*

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3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT MTRCB R-13 2.15, 4.50, 7.25, 10:00
4 CLICK MTRCB PG-13 12 00, 2 30, 5 00, 7 30, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
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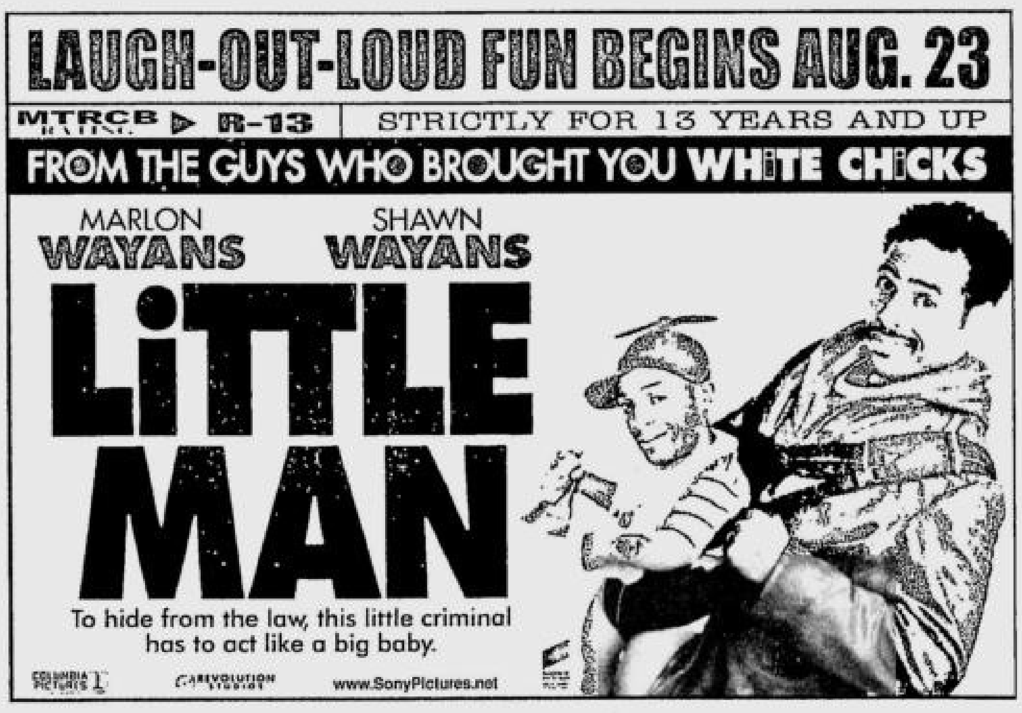
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LIVING Stars

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

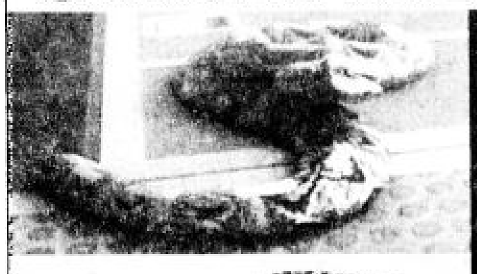
sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

OUT OF THE CLOSET

PRIM IN PINK
Lou-G of Mojofly is one of several female celebrities in a "Pink Power" campaign, whose logic she explains, thus: "My music is not exactly feminine in esssence. Pink accentuates my being female."
OUT OF THE CLOSET, page I-2.

FRANCINE PRIETO
CLOCKWISE from top left. Mojo is a three-year-old shih tzu. He's the house guard. *Matapang 'yan, parang* K9 (US military designation for war dogs).
Oslo, a lhasa apso, is only 11 months old. He's very sweet. *S'ya ang pinakamakulit at pasaway*. He sleeps in my mom's bedroom. He's my favorite playmate.
Chico, a Pomeranian spitz, is the same age as Sachi. *Pinakamabait 'yan*. He stays inside the house. He's a celebrity, too. He appeared with me in the TV series, "Sugo."
Sachi is a two-year-old Pomeranian spitz. He guards the house with Mojo.
I make sure all my dogs are bathed everyday. This is because my mom doesn't want our house to stink. If I'm home, I bathe them myself. They are made to take vitamins everyday. Their teeth are brushed, everyday too. Every month, they visit the veterinarian for grooming. There, their nails and hair are trimmed. MARINEL R. CRUZ

OPENS AUGUST 23
THE DEADLY SNAKES OF
'SNAKES ON A PLANE'

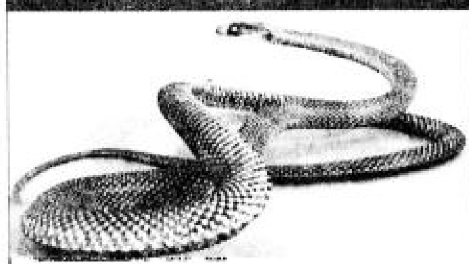


PIT VIPER
Named for their pits, these vipers can seek out warm-blooded preys easily.

PORTHIDIUM
Highly poisonous, their venom instantly kills their prey on contact.

RAINBOW BOA
Native to Peru, this constrictor causes more human fatalities than sickness in a year.

RATTLESNAKE
Bites are deadly with fangs that inject large amounts of venom.



SPECKLED RACER
Fast-moving with unpredictable biting speed, it can inflict a deep venomous wound.

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30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
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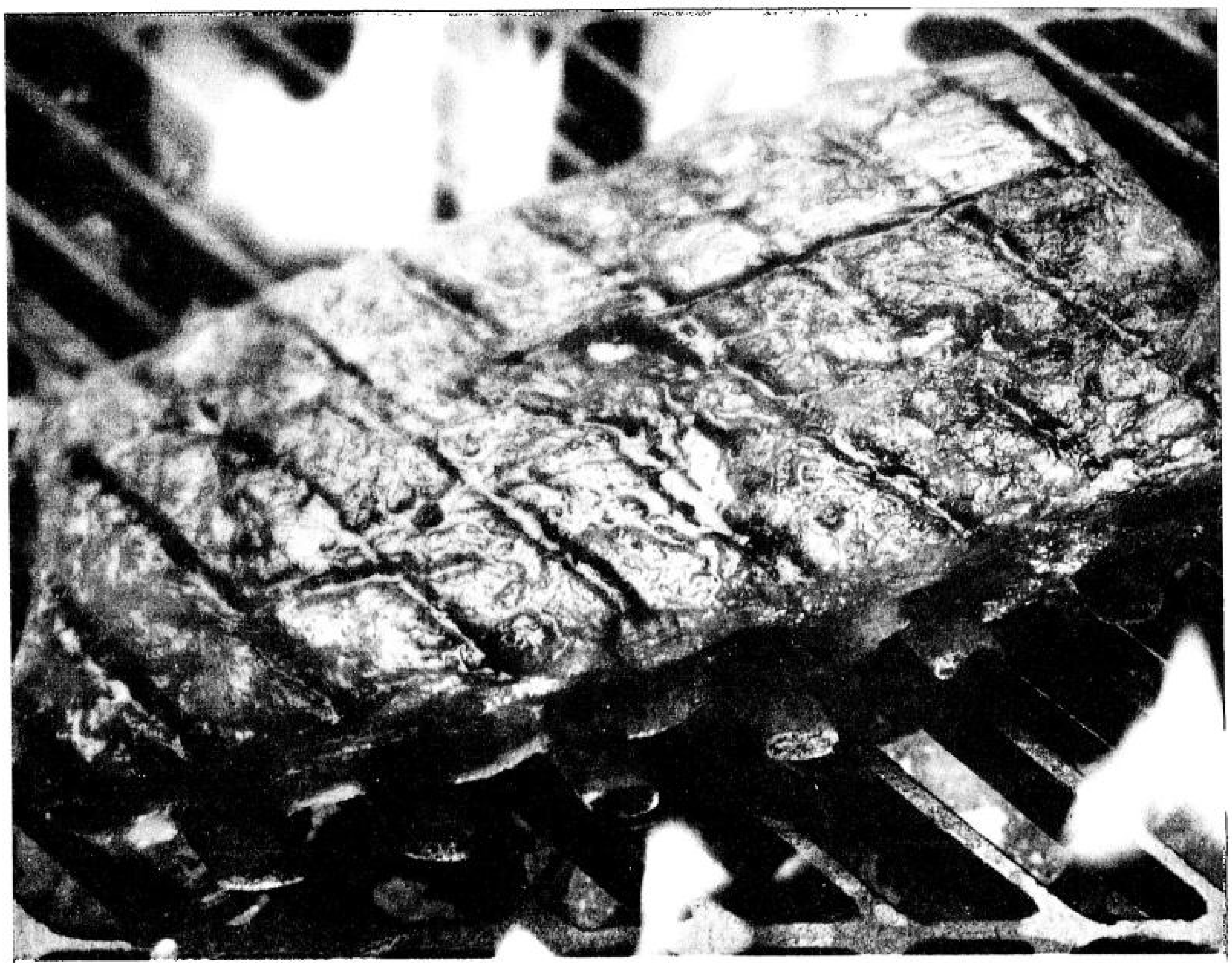

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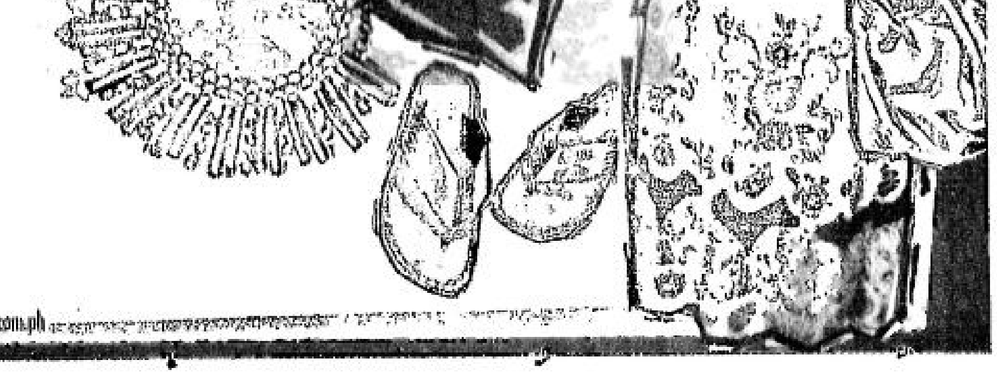

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2 MORTUARY
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 KUBRADOR/AMERICAN DREAMZ
PREMIERE CINEMA
OH MY GHOST
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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CINEMA 2
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2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 STORMBREAKER
4 CLICK
5 SUKOB
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
7 MIAMI VICE
8 OH MY GHOST
9 KUBRADOR
10 MORTUARY
11 CLICK
12 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2

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1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
2 AMERICAN DREAMZ
3 CLICK
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
5 MIAMI VICE
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7 MORTUARY
8 KUBRADOR
9 OH MY GHOST
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 MORTUARY
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 LADY IN THE WATER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 SUKOB
10 STORMBREAKER
11 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12 FIERCE CREATURE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
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2 CLICK
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
4 OH MY GHOST
5 SUKOB
6 MORTUARY
7 MIAMI VICE
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 AMERICAN DREAMZ
10 STORMBREAKER

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4 MORTUARY
5 SUKOB
6 OH MY GHOST

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8 OH MY GHOST
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2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
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8 AMERICAN DREAMZ
9 SUKOB
10 MIAMI VICE
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 OH MY GHOST

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323301-04
1 MIAMI VICE
2 OH MY GHOST
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 OH MY GHOST

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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

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3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY

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2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
4 SUKOB
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6 OH MY GHOST
7 CLICK
8 FIERCE CFREATURE

SM CITY BATANGAS 886-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 OH MY GHOST
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB

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1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 CLICK
4 OH MY GHOSTZ

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 OH MY GHOST
6 SUKOB

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1 SUKOB
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 STORMBREAKER
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 OH MY GHOST

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1 OH MY GHOST
2 ANT BULLY
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 OH MY GHOST
4 SUKOB

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 CLICK
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 OH MY GHOST
7 SUKOB
8 MIAMI VICE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 THE BREAK-UP
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 TAMARA
5 CLICK
6 OH MY GHOST
7 RESERVED
8 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 MIAMI VICE
2 SUKOB
3 LOVEWRECKED
4 OH MY GHOST
5 CLICK
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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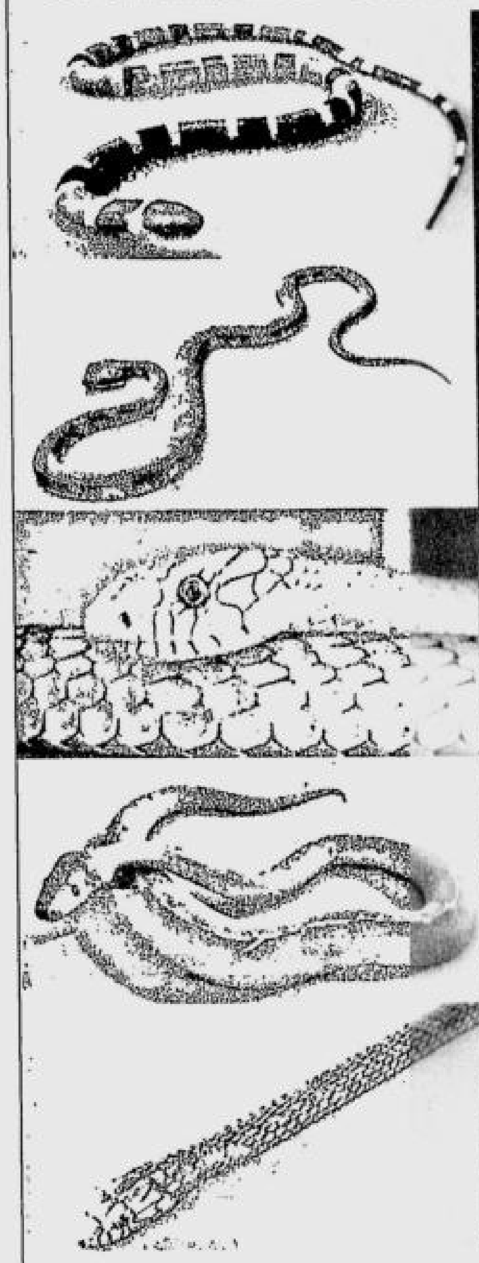
OPENS AUGUST 23
THE DEADLY SNAKES OF
'SNAKES ON A PLANE'



CORAL SNAKE
Secretes venom that paralyzes the nerves of its victims.

HONDURAN GREEN EYELASH VIPER
Has large hypodermic needle-like fangs that poisons its prey.

GREEN MAMBA
The most dreaded snake species in Africa.

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A venomous snake with fangs and a bad attitude.

PINK MAMBA
A close relative to the black and green mamba with the same venomous attributes.

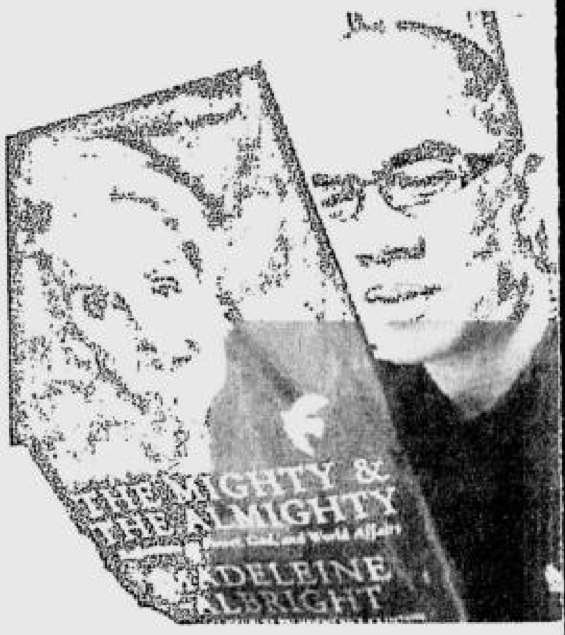
500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC !

FAVORITE NOOKS

SUNSHINE CRUZ

This is my favorite place at home—
bad mood *ako*, when I enter this p
problems. *Nakakatanggal ng stres*
room playing with my Tres Marias (
her youngest daughter, Angel France

BOOKS



BOY ABUNDA

"I am curently reading Madeleine Albright's 'The Mighty and the Almighty.' In a nutshell, it proposes that understanding religions and the genesis of faith will make the world a better place. It has given me a broader perspective and appreciation of global politics and current events like the war in Lebanon. It's very useful because I'm now doing a lot of political interviews on [the ANC

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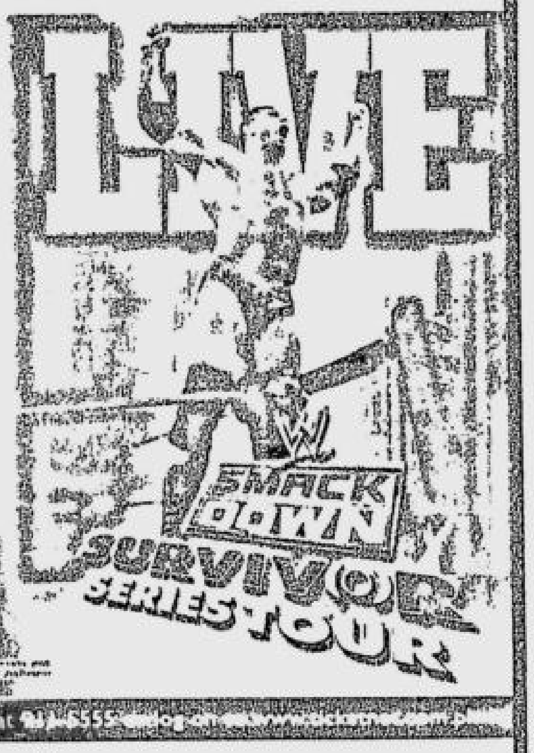

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AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:35 / 2:55 / 5:15 / 7:35 / 9:55
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
KUBRADOR 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
OH MY GHOST 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
ANT BULLY 12:50 / 2:50 / 4:50
MIAMI VICE 6:50 / 9:40
CLICK 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45
SUKOB 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

AliMALL 5

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2 1:05 / 3:40 / 6:15 / 8:50
4 SUKOB 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10
OH MY GHOST 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35
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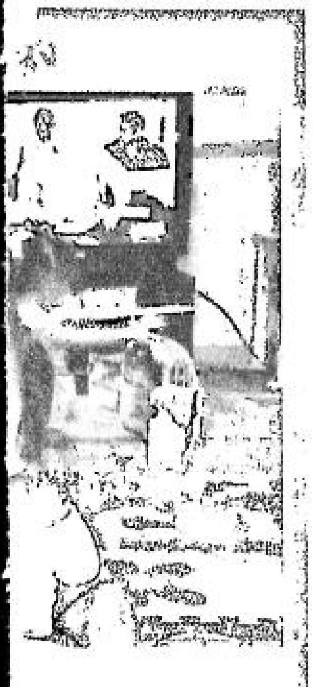
BEFORE & AFTER THE MOVIE DINE AT OVER 300 FOOD OUTLETS AROUND THE CENTER • COME EARLY & AVOID THE RUSH

Why

"DISINFECT SHOES bought
ukay."

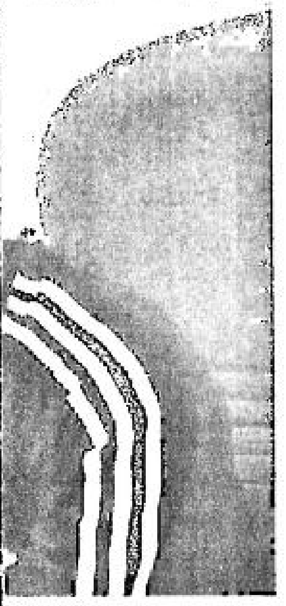
HER PINK campaign goes all
hair products.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



he kids' playroom. *Kahit* lace, I forget all my s when I'm in a colorful *with Sunshine in photo is sca, 8 months old)*

Marinel R. Cruz



'Private Conversations bunda.' I'm also ad News: The Decline ting, the Business of ews and the Danger to s All' by Tom Fenton d 'Desperate Networks' Bill Carter. These books ake me realize that at is happening now in s also happened before

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Jaclyn Jose, indie homemaker

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

HOME BODY

SHE HAS RUN OUT OF MANTLE SPACE for her awards (27 and counting)—the latest of which is her fifth Urian, this one as Best Actress for the Cinemalaya entry "Sarong Banggi."

But trust Jaclyn Jose to improvise. She asked the help to bring down from her bedroom the new end table she recently bought in Vigan, where the horror flick "Barang" was shot.

She has always had an eye for wooden furniture, she says. "I know what will look good and where. My place is small and [simply appointed], but it's photogenic."

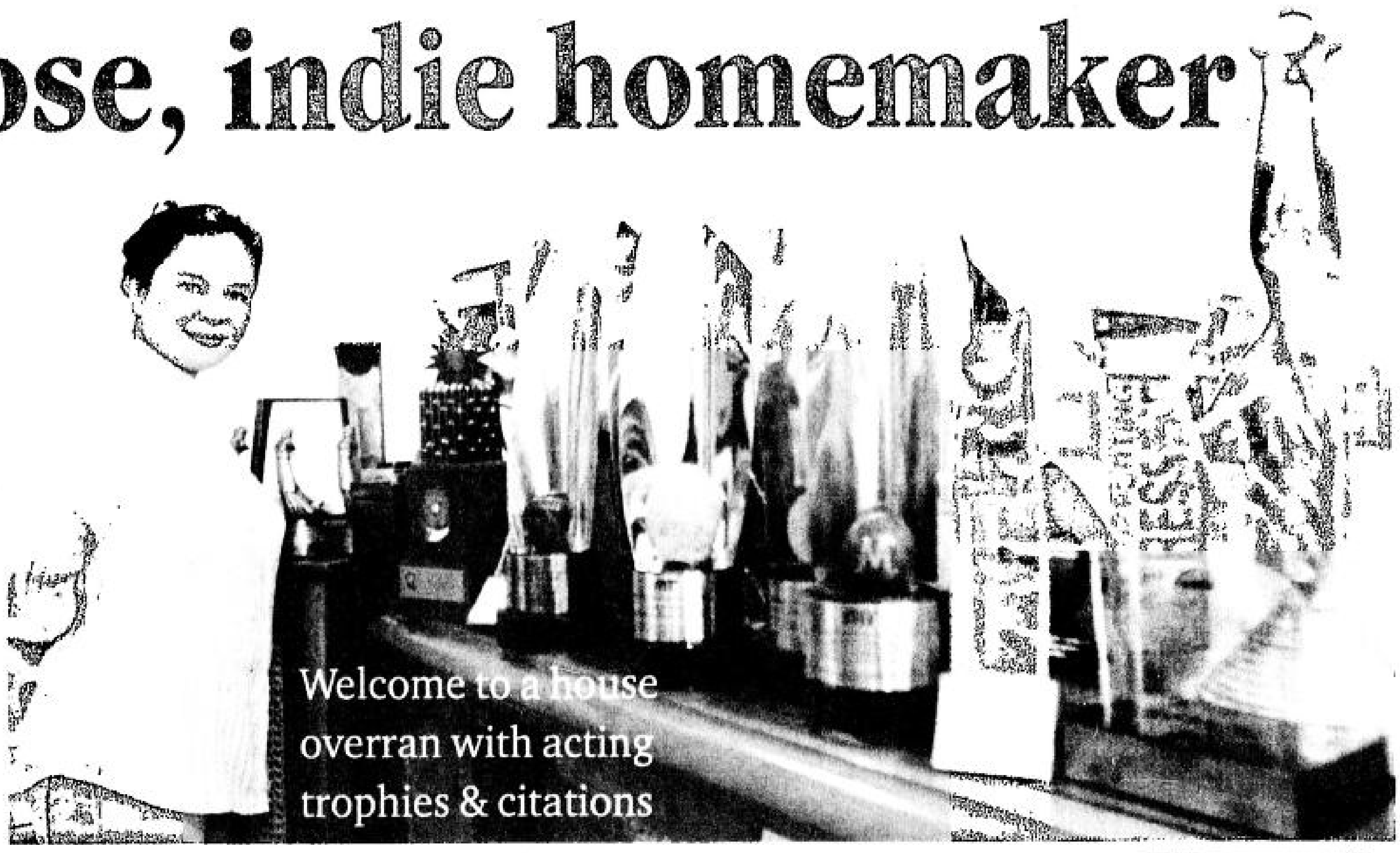
That's probably because Jaclyn, or Mary Jane Guck in real life, was enrolled in the Philippine School of Interior Design before show biz beckoned in 1984.

"During our time, we didn't do projects with computers. We did everything by hand."

She taps into that experience whenever she decorates her townhouse yet again, which is often. "I don't need a professional. When I moved in 14 years ago, I designed everything, including the trellis in the patio. I also chose the colors. When the fad was red, I was already into yellow and orange."

She is thinking of selling this city townhouse, to move to a country home in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Of course, she will design the interiors herself. Talk about the indie spirit.

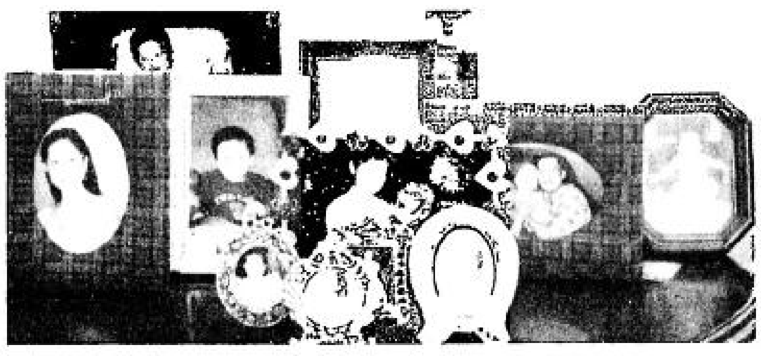


Welcome to a house overran with acting trophies & citations

HANGING OUT with her kids Gwen and Andie in the master bedroom

"I'M INTO country-living pieces, like this heirloom cabinet."

"SINIGANG" and "picadillo" are the cooking foodie's specialties. Charito Solis gave her a recipe for bangus sardines.



"I USED to take lots of pictures of my kids when they were babies."

"THAT'S AN old stereo phonograph," Jaclyn says of the TV stand.

---

rom *ukay-*

he way to

Lou-G wears pink

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

OUT OF THE CLOSET

MARIA LOURDES GRACE "Lougee" (or "Lou-G") Basabas, lead vocalist of the rock group Mojofly, swears that treasures turn up in most unexpected places.

"Like *ukay-ukay* stalls at the street corner," said Lou-G, collector of vintage records, especially of her idols The Beatles and Madonna.

"I buy vinyl discs in this place on Evangelista. My favorite is a collection of love songs by the Beatles, a rare find," she told Living Stars when we visited her Makati City home.

Lou-G, 20, also loves "funky and eccentric" clothes, bags and shoes, which she gets from bazaars. "I'm a smart buyer. I'm very patient. Tip *lang*," she said: "Don't wear *ukay-ukay* shoes without disinfecting them."

Lou-G was with the band Superlooj when she received an offer to replace Kitchie Nadal as Mojofly vocalist. She left Superlooj in 2003. "My band mates didn't take it well, but we're okay now." she said.

She was also a member of the pop group Kaya. She has been appearing in TV commercials since she was 14 and was most recently featured in Cream Silk's "Pink Power, Girl Power" campaign.

"The campaign simply means my music, which is essentially alternative rock, is not exactly feminine in tone or beat, so if I wear pink, I accentuate my being female," she explained. "My outfit depends on where our gig is. If it's on campus, I seldom get all dressed up. But when we do bars, I go crazy."

EYE WEAR

I collect vintage stuff. Driving through Evangelista Street in Makati one day, I saw a lot of antique stores. That was when I became fascinated with old shades. The I discovered my mom had a lot!

I love the Willy Wonka look; that's why I have lots of Bumblebee shades. This white-framed number is a gift from the Pedicab band, my friends.

These pink framed ones which I've worn in a lot of shoots are very, very retro Nina Ricci—my mom's.

JACKETS

I love jackets. I love this plaid one because its Gwen Stefani-inspired. She's another idol of mine.

This brown knitted shrug glams up plain clothes.

I like this pink hooded number because of the fur. I bought it from *ukay-ukay* at P150. My latest favorite is this army jacket from Penshoppe.

SHOES

I like out-of-this-world shoe styles. The black-and-yellow pumps are my favorite. The plaid pair reminds me of Gwen Stefani, too.

My high-cut pink Chuck Taylors are overused. I rarely have it washed because I always want to wear it.

These (mismatched brown velvet embroidered) boots are from Baguio.

I'm a big fan of Adidas, too.

BAGS

I like big bags because I carry my whole house everywhere.

I use this brown leather bag a lot. I got it from Bicol when I went there to surf with friends. I got this for only P50!

I use this pink clutch bag to feel girly.

TOPS

The V-neck knitted top is my favorite. It's very funky. I also like this sweater that says "Hello" in front and "Goodbye" at the back.

The Campbell glam shirt is another *ukay-ukay* find. Some rave boutiques also buy from *ukay-ukay*. They deconstruct the shirts and glam them up. I might as well do it myself.

PANTS

I love these cropped corduroy pants because it's eccentric.

ACCESSORIES

I make my own accessories. I sell them, too. This ruby ring has become my trade mark. Members of my Yahoo group always ask where I got it. I'm not telling.

INSTRUMENTS AND GADGETS

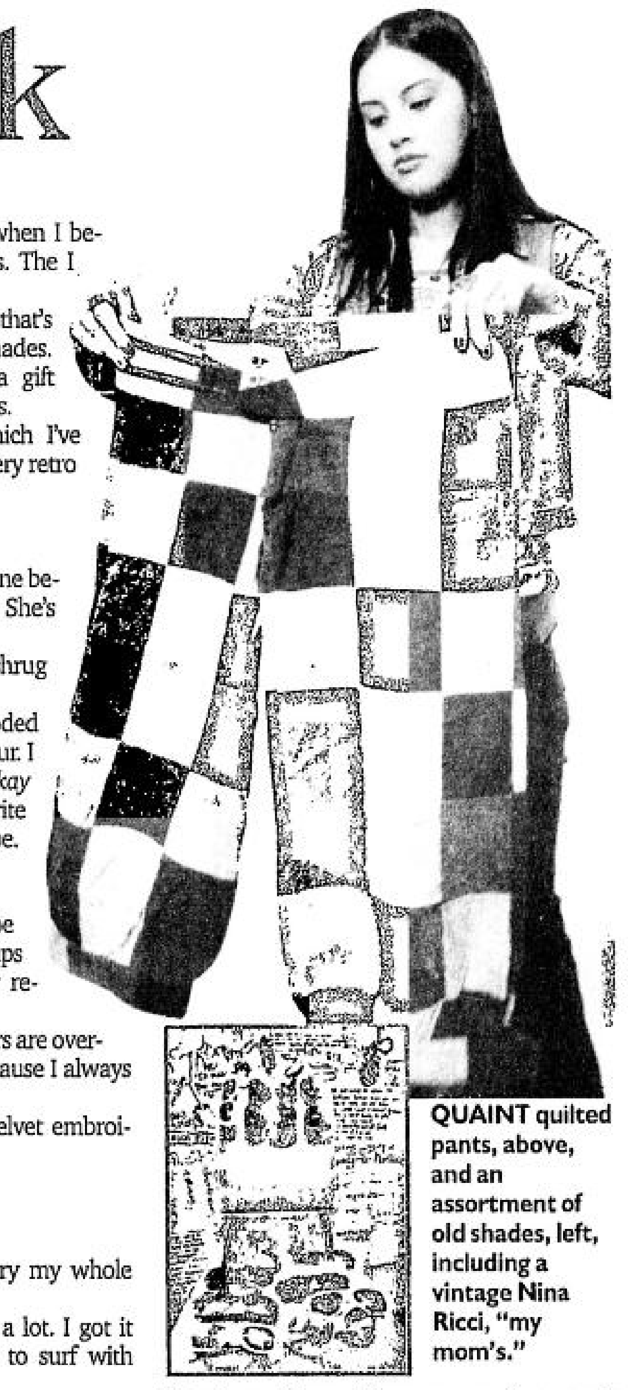
What I have in my place is basic recording stuff—mixer, mic, I-pod, speakers and a good and fast computer. I'm not a techie, but this is part of my job.

My acoustic guitar is a Yamaha. It's my first professional guitar. I've had this for four years now. My old one is a Lumanog.

My RJ bass guitar to a Music Man. This is a Christmas gift from my boyfriend.

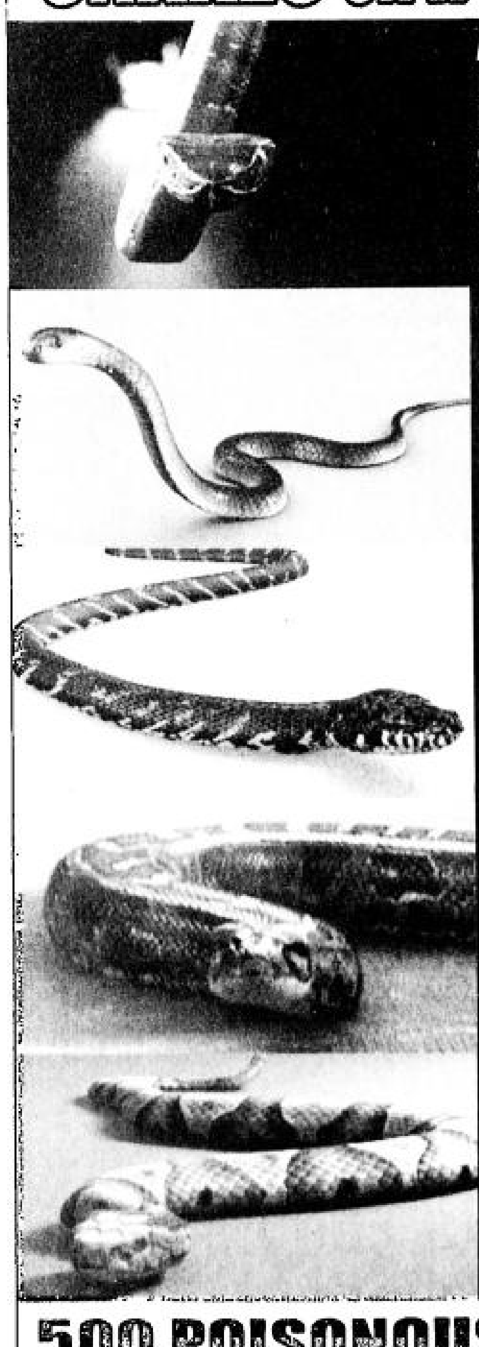
TOILETRIES

Things I cannot live without are my hand sanitizer, wet tissues, sunblock hair conditioner, body butter and lip balm.



QUAINT quilted pants, above, and an assortment of old shades, left, including a vintage Nina Ricci, "my mom's."

MADONNA and The Beatles are her idols.



OPENS AUGUST 23
THE DEADLY SNAKES OF
'SNAKES ON A PLANE'

ASIAN MOCCASIN
Has a heat-sensitive organ for detecting warm-blooded preys.

BLACK MAMBA
Fastest snake on the planet, highly aggressive and bites for the kill.

BOELENS PYTHON
Armed with venomous fangs, these species squeezes their prey to kill it.

BURMESE PYTHON
Has lots of big teeth, weighs 200 lbs., and is 20-feet long.

COPPERHEAD
The most venomous snake in Eastern U.S. Fatalities are sure with this nasty bugger.

500 POISONOUS SNAKES
30,000 FEET IN THE AIR
DO NOT PANIC !

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EVANGELINE LILLY at "Lost" DVD Party in Hawaii. REUTERS

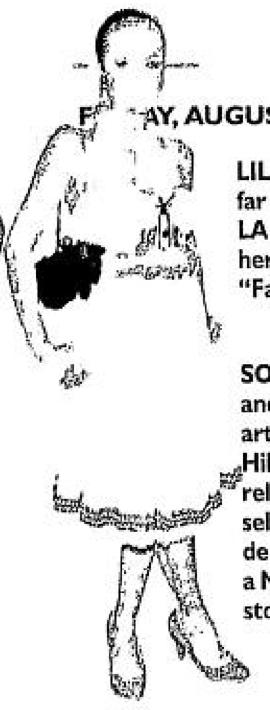
YUNJIN KIM at same "Lost" party. REUTERS

ALAN RICKMAN, and Sigourney Weaver at the Edinburgh premiere of "Snow Cake." REUTERS

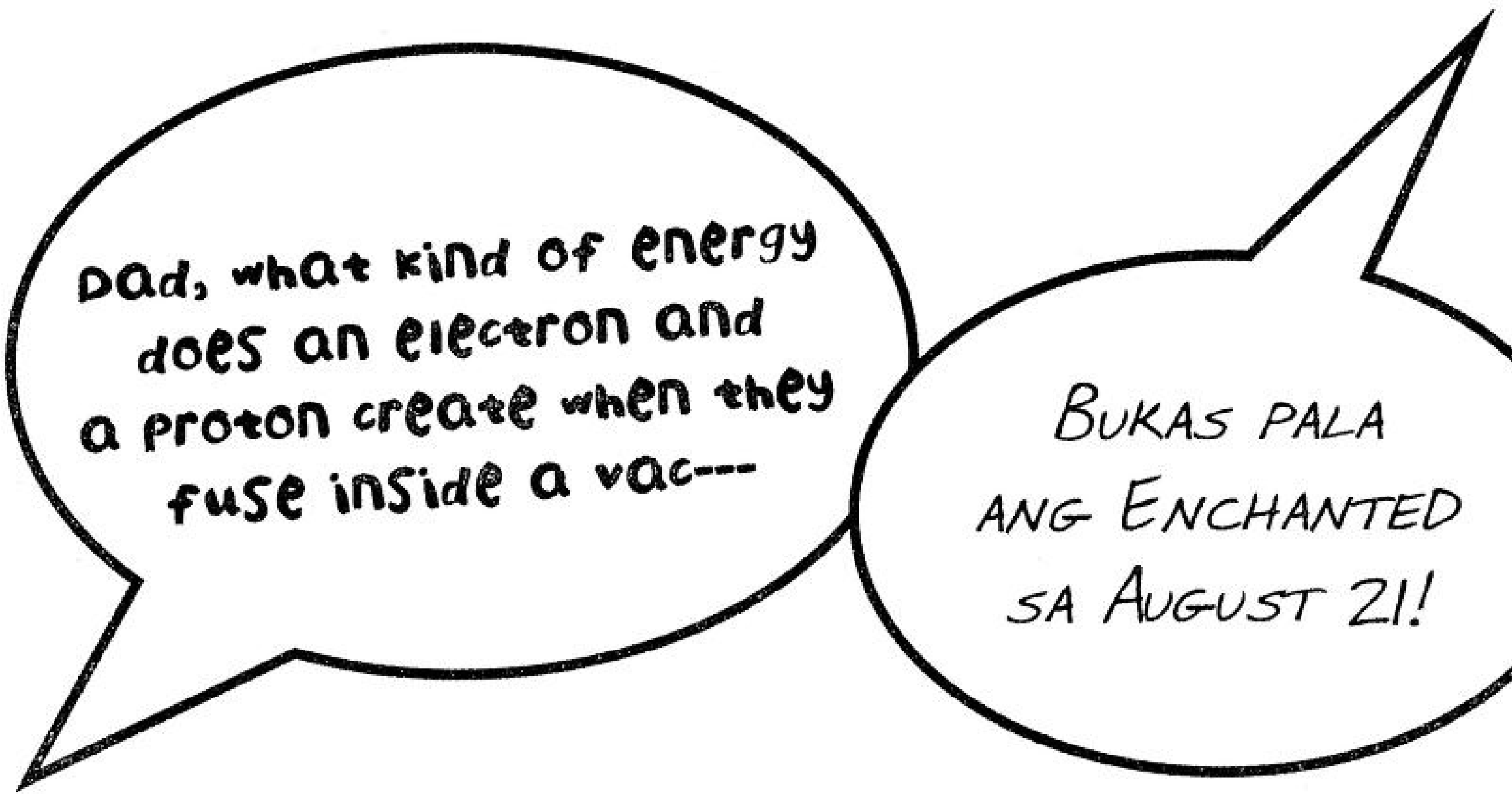
RED CARPET

AUTHOR J.K. Rowling and husband Neil Murray, right, also at the "Snow Cake" preem in Edinburgh, Scotland, on Tuesday. REUTERS

LILI TAYLOR, far left, at the LA premiere of her new film, "Factotum." REUTERS



SOCIALITE and recording artist Paris Hilton at the release of her self-titled debut album in a Miami Beach store. REUTERS



Dad, what kind of energy does an electron and a proton create when they fuse inside a vac---
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JESSICA BIEL at the New York City premier of "The Illusionist." AFP

ROCK-STYLISH at the MTV Pilipinas Awards, counterclockwise from above: FrancisM and wife Pia, Troy Montero and Aubrey Miles, Karylle and Dingdong Dantes.
PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	MORTUARY	OH MY GHOST!			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CLICK	FREEDOMLAND	THX AMERICAN DREAMZ 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	KUBRADOR	SUKOB	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
GB1 GREENBELT 1	CLICK	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX AMERICAN DREAMZ 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	FREEDOMLAND 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	MIAMI VICE 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	CLICK 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:20, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	CLICK	OH MY GHOST!	STORMBREAKER		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	MIAMI VICE	WOLFCREEK	OH MY GHOST!			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	OH MY GHOST!	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2	KUBRADOR	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	MIAMI VICE		

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5th Philippines Robotics Olympiad August 26, 2006	PBA Draft August 20, 2006

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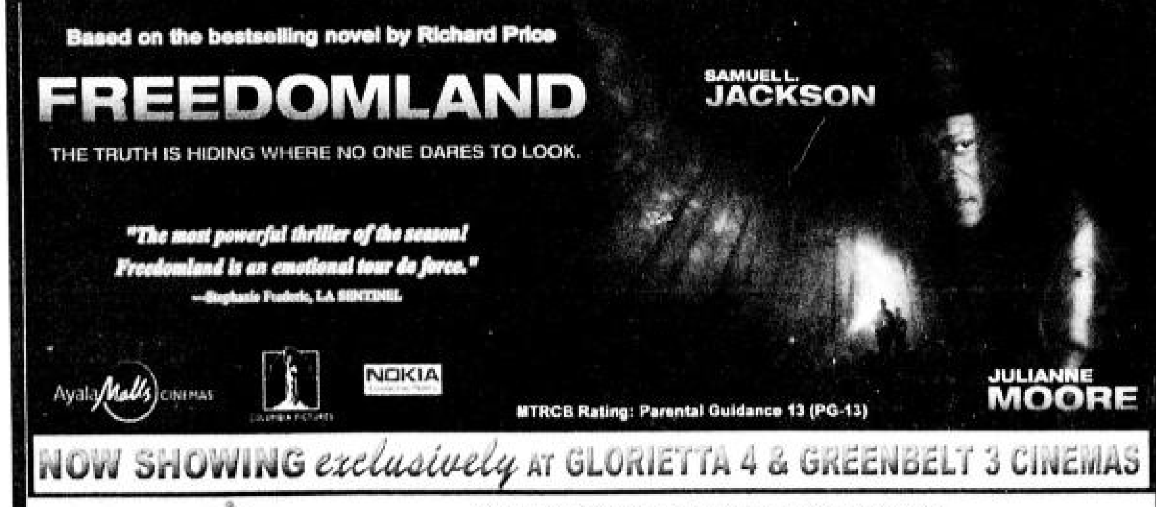
June 27 to August 27, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



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JULIANNE MOORE
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—Stephanie Frederic, LA SENTINEL
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MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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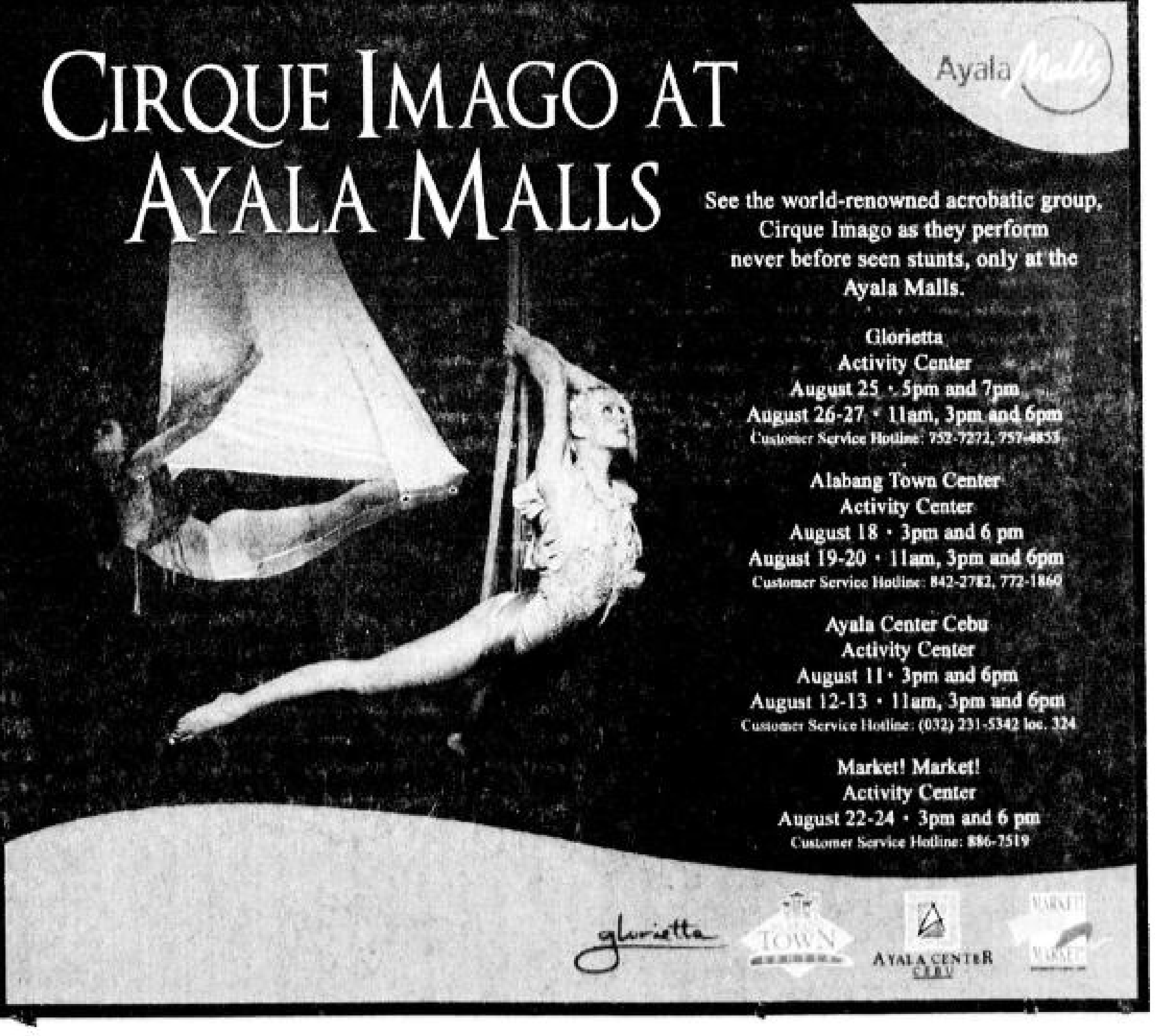
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
Regular run begins Aug. 30 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
Ayala Malls CINEMAS



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